

COMMENT OF  
THE DAY

Hongkong Housing

THE Civic Association's analysis of some of the principal features of the annual report of the Hongkong Housing Authority deserves close attention—officially and by the general public.

Concern is expressed by the Civic Association that the Housing Authority, by virtue of its uncertain financial resources, cannot hope to meet the increasing demand for proper accommodation; that the natural increase in population is itself sufficient to deny the Housing Authority rehancement of a building programme that will satisfy the Colony's needs. This is a challenging conclusion, but is not easily rebutted.

The Association advances several recommendations which it believes could go a long way towards resolving the problem. They include: the earmarking by Government of \$800 million over five years, to be used by the Housing Authority at the rate of \$60 million a year; the \$300 million to be raised by appropriation from the Colony's reserves, and by borrowing from local companies and from the United Kingdom government; the Authority to encourage and participate in co-operative housing schemes.

These are not unrealistic suggestions, and each possesses merit. Manifestly finance is the prime stumbling block to quicker and bigger building programmes, and even the raising of \$300 million in the course of five years would not produce all the houses required. But the money would enable the Housing Authority to raise its target and permit a more rapid implementation of its programme.

Co-operative housing schemes would also help, but the chief difficulty in a place like Hongkong is to stimulate enough public interest in them. It would certainly require the combined and concentrated efforts of social and civic organisations as well as Government to develop public enthusiasm for that type of enterprise.

To what extent private enterprise is prepared to contribute towards solving the housing problem for lower and middle bracket wage earners defies forecast. Yet it is not unreasonable to suggest that it should shoulder some responsibility. The aim must remain—adequate housing accommodation for everyone at economic rentals.

# MARSHALL'S VISION FOR SINGAPORE Indissolubly Linked With Commonwealth

London, Dec. 16. Mr David Marshall, Singapore's Chief Minister, said here today that his "concept for the foreseeable future is that our welfare is indissolubly linked with the Commonwealth."

Mr Marshall, who was answering questions at his first full-scale press conference here, said: "I seek a status of freedom in close relationship with the Commonwealth countries.

"I do hope that they will recognise that though Singapore is a small point on the map, and has only a population of 1,200,000, we are worth having as a junior partner in an institution of genius that we know as the Commonwealth."

The Chief Minister was addressing the press conference a few hours after the end of his week-long exploratory talks at the Colonial Office on the question of internal self-government for the Crown Colony.

Answering questions Mr Marshall said that he considered the agreement arrived at during his talks here "honourable and friendly."

He was happy about the outcome of the present talks.

Mr Marshall and Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd, Colonial Secretary, have agreed that a conference be held in London in April next of all Singapore's political parties to discuss the Crown Colony's constitutional future.

Mr Marshall said that at the April conference he would press for a date to be fixed for internal self-government for Singapore.

He said that the question of an all-elected Council of Ministers would also come up at the April discussions.

At present some of the ministers are appointed by the Governor of the island.

## FRIENDLY APPROACH

Mr Marshall added that there was a "very friendly spirit of approach" by the Colonial Office during his talks here and its officials did not fight an "inch by inch rearguard action."

In a further reply the Chief Minister said that all the political parties in Singapore were agreed that defence and foreign affairs should continue to remain vested in Britain after internal self-government was achieved.

Mr Marshall declared that his final aim was for dominion status for the island colony, preferably dominion status with the Federation of Malaya.

He said that he had found "cordiality and reasonableness in the methods of approach of the Colonial Office to our present mission."

That was a happy augury for the future.

"But I recognise that what we seek (dominion status) we may find more than a little difficult to achieve, and I have not the slightest doubt that we shall find 999 reasons given to us why we cannot attain that status."

Mr Marshall went on to add: "But we shall ask for dominion status because we believe that is the desirable solution."

## THE FOUNDATION

Singapore wanted "some basis now" for a permanent political relationship for the future. To him dominion status could be the foundation for Singapore's future.

Mr Marshall said that it would be "a happy day" for him if Singapore and the Federation of Malaya could seek jointly a single constitution of dominion status, because both countries would be mutually strengthened.

He emphasised that Singapore and Malaya were geographically, ethnically and economically a single unit and the present separation of their administrations was artificial.

"Unfortunately the Federation does not consider the time right for a joint approach to dominion status," he declared.

Mr Marshall who sat in the glare of arc lights trained on him by television camera became very heated when he was questioned about seeking the co-operation of the Malayan Communist Party by a reporter from the Communist London Daily Worker.

"The Malayan Communist Party has for seven and a half years used brutality, murder and arson as a weapon of intimidation," Mr Marshall shouted. He added: "My answer to the Communists is 'no thank you.' A snake in my bosom is no help to me."

The Daily Worker reporter asked Mr Marshall if he had raised at the conference the fact that the time was now due for him to fulfil his election pledges to the people of Singapore to end the emergency regulations.

## WRONG PREMISE

"Your premise is wrong," replied Mr Marshall. "The Labour Front of which I am privileged to be leader has in fact fulfilled its pledges to the country and has repealed the emergency regulations. It is true that we have passed public security ordinances which, in the light of the riots and strikes and the knowledge we gained from our few months in office,

## Christmas Feature Highlights

Here are some of the feature highlights of today's Christmas edition of the China Mail:

P. 5: What was the star of Bethlehem? Make sure of a happy Christmas, by Sylvia Ward.

P. 6: Do Ghosts prefer Christmas, by John Cottrell; Spare a thought for Mother, by Janet Grey; A Christmas quiz.

P. 7: The Christmas tree of 1914, by Crawford Snowden.

P. 8: How Christmas cards started, by Ronald Boxall, Gile.

P. 9: Space Christmas—a diary left by an explorer to Mars in 1993.

P. 10: How to choose your Christmas wines, by J. B. White.

P. 12: Phone Call for Bulgarians, by John McKenna.

P. 17: The Seasonal gift, by John Pudney.

P. 18: Best stories of the year—how to make things for Christmas.

## Serious Disturbances In Jordan

### Many People Slain

Damascus, Dec. 16.

Nearly 40 people were killed and injured in widespread demonstrations throughout Jordan today against Jordan's proposed membership of the Bagdad pact.

According to reports reaching here, tonight police and Arab Legion regiments clashed with demonstrators and more than 300 people were arrested, including the deputies.

A curfew was proclaimed throughout Jordan.

### 10,000 Demonstrate

In Amman, the capital, 10,000 demonstrators clashed with police and the Arab Legionaries.

One Arab Legion major, a cousin of Hazzah Mahial, the new Prime Minister, was reportedly seriously injured.

"I get the lowest common denominator of fairness to all sides and put it forward,"

Mr Lennox-Boyd had been fair on the subject of citizenship.

The talks with the Treasury had been very successful.

Officials had told him that they quite realised that by giving Indonesia the hard currency she sought it would give impetus to trade, resulting in an increase in Singapore's own prosperity and dollar earnings.

Reuter.

## LOADED QUESTIONS

The Daily Worker reporter rose to ask Mr Marshall how he could hope to make progress with the Communists in the Colony if he went into negotiations with them while leaving them.

"You do not want your questions, do you?" Mr Marshall retorted. "I am like asking 'why don't you stop beating your wife?' There is no question of our negotiating with the Communists. The Chief Minister of the Federation has arranged a meeting with the Communists in which he is prepared to listen to everything they have to say. I shall be present at his request." Reuter.

London, Dec. 16.

Sir Winston Churchill today received the freedom of Northern Ireland's capital, Belfast, and the Port of Londonderry at a ceremony in the Mansion House here today.

Three hundred guests attended the luncheon at the city residence of London's Lord Mayors, on the first occasion on which Northern Ireland representatives have bestowed freedom at a ceremony outside their own country. —China Mail Special.

London, Dec. 16.

British dockers today decided to ask for a "substantial" wage increase. The wages of British dockers had already been increased in the spring, but the cost of living has risen this year in Britain more sharply than in any other year since 1945. —France-Press.

## SANCTIONS DEMAND AGAINST ISRAEL

Now York, Dec. 16. Syria today demanded economic sanctions against Israel by the United Nations and also suggested possible expulsion of the Jewish state from the world organisation.

The Syrian Delegate, Mr Ahmed Shukairy, told the Security Council that a "verdict of condemnation" was no remedy against Israel.

He was putting his country's case to the 11-member council meeting at his request to consider the Israel raid on Monday, in which at least 41 Syrians were killed.

He visited the United Nations Security Council that "war or no war" was the issue now in the Middle East.

"This whole attack committed by Israel is an act of war, possessing all the attributes of war except the courage and bravery of war," Mr Shukairy declared.

He said the Arab governments were "now under great effort and labour to face the wave of anger and indignation which the Israeli attack has aroused."

### NOT A REMEDY

Mr Shukairy spoke a day after Egypt's Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser served notice on the UN that he considered aggression against Syria to be aggression against Egypt too, and that such Israeli acts in the future would be met with all Egypt's armed might.

The Syrian delegate told the Security Council that a "verdict of condemnation" was no remedy against Israel. "It may be a remedy against a party with a sense of international responsibility," he said. "But Israel has by now a record before the Security Council."

Mr Shukairy charged that Israel had persistently violated the principles of the UN Charter and added that persistent violation could mean the expulsion of a member from the organisation on the Security Council's recommendation to the General Assembly.

Israel's membership in the United Nations is thus in question, he said. "The best I can do is to remind the Security Council of its competence to apply its authority in this matter." —Reuter.

## Initiative And Courage

Manchester, Dec. 16.

Eleven-year-old Gordon Jones returned home after watching television to find the ground floor filled with smoke.

Upstairs, his baby niece Marilyn was asleep. So Gordon shinied 18 feet up a drainpipe, collected six-month-old Marilyn, and passed her safely to a neighbour below.

Before sliding down the drainpipe, Gordon rescued his football boots.

The ground floor of the house, in Rochdale, outside Manchester, was badly damaged. Nobody was hurt. —China Mail Special.

## Want More Wages

London, Dec. 16.

British dockers today decided to ask for a "substantial" wage increase. The wages of British dockers had already been increased in the spring, but the cost of living has risen this year in Britain more sharply than in any other year since 1945. —France-Press.

## TODAY'S RACING SELECTIONS

By "Rapier"

### RACE 1

Calamity  
Ben Lawers  
Queenpots  
Outsider—Congratulation.

### RACE 2

Blondie  
Kerrera  
Scrabo  
Outsider—Thanksgiving Day.

### RACE 3

Winsome Star  
Solar Knight  
Diamond Dahlia  
Outsider—Teafield.

### RACE 4

Snow-Damsel  
Silver Wing  
Heilcon  
Outsider—Golden Branch.

### RACE 5

Flying Dutchman  
Rebel II  
Moonrush  
Outsider—Ironside.

### RACE 6

Bonita  
Fire-Glo  
New Jersey  
Outsider—Gold Crown.

### RACE 7

Tip Top  
Souvenir  
Orange Beauty  
Outsider—Tell-me-more.

### RACE 8

Mascot  
Corvette  
Seafire  
Outsider—Beautiful Lie.

By "The Turf"

### RACE 1

Calamity  
Congratulation  
Quizlette  
Outsider—Evergreen.

### RACE 2

Blondie  
Kerrera  
Many Returns  
Outsider—Rider's Wish.

### RACE 3

Winsome Star  
Solar Knight  
Diamond Dahlia  
Outsider—Teafield.

### RACE 4

Snow-Damsel  
Golden Branch  
Heilcon  
Outsider—Silver Wing.

### RACE 5

Thousands Miles  
Flying Dutchman  
Matador  
Outsider—Moonrush.

### RACE 6

Fire-Glo  
Bonita  
Ben Lomond  
Outsider—New Jersey.

### RACE 7

Tip Top  
Tell-Me-More  
Hawaiian Moon  
Outsider—Souvenir.

### RACE 8

Mascot  
Beautiful Lie  
Full Ahead  
Outsider—Kentucky Lady.

## TODAY'S TEASER TIP

for the 1st race

Nothing could be more distressing

The teaser tip for the last meeting was Cest Si Bon which won and paid a dividend of \$14.60.

## VICTORY CONCEDED TO DR EVATT

**KING'S PRINCESS**  
TO-DAY

FIRST STARTLING STORY OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS RIDER!



PRINT BY Technicolor

**Lady Godiva**

MAUREEN O'HARA GEORGE NADER

also starring VICTOR MCLAGLEN REX REASON

W. R. TABER MATCHES EDWARD FRANZ ARTHUR SHIELDS

A UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

Free sample of "DANA" perfume to-day at Princess Paramount Movie-Star Calendar for 1956 obtainable from theatre lobbies at \$3

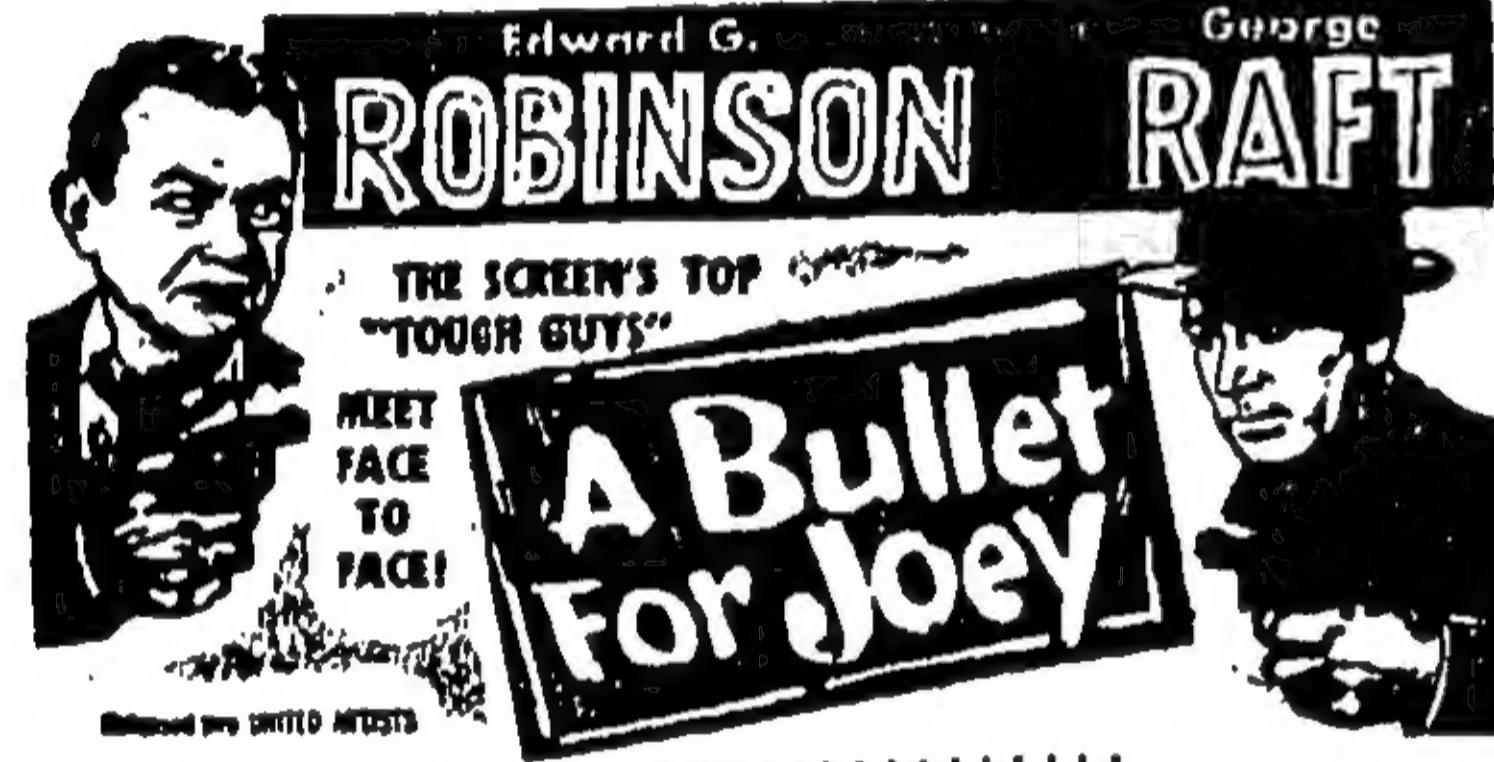
EXTRA MORNING SHOW TO-MORROW  
King's at 11.30 a.m. Princess at 11.00 a.m.  
A Variety Programme of  
WALT DISNEY-RKO  
TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS  
Admission: \$1.00, \$1.50

Free "CLOETTA" Chocolate Wafer to patrons of this show

**PRINCESS** 5 SHOWS TO-MORROW  
"LADY GODIVA"  
EXTRA SHOW AT 12.30 P.M.

**NEW YORK · GREAT WORLD**  
CAUSEWAY BAY TEL. 78721 KOWLOON TEL. 53300

SHOWING TO-DAY —  
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



SUNDAY MATINEE AT 12.30 P.M.  
NEW YORK: "PINOCCHIO"  
GREAT WORLD: FOX TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS  
COMMENCING TUESDAY 20TH DEC.

**LOVER! ROVER!**



**EMPIRE**  
TO-DAY: 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

A CHINESE MANDARIN PICTURE  
"BLOOD WILL TELL"  
in Eastman Color

Starring: LI LI-HWA · WONG YIN

TO-MORROW MORNING SHOW AT 11.00 A.M.  
"WHITE WITCH DOCTOR"  
in Technicolor

Starring: Susan HAYWARD · Robert MITCHUM

**Parisian Grill**  
FESTIVE FAIRE

XMAS EVE NEW YEAR'S EVE

NORBERT MATTISON — Violin Vocal  
MICHAEL BODER — Grand Piano

LIMITED BOOKINGS TEL. 27880

# FILMS

BY JANE ROBERTS

## The New Films At A Glance SHOWING

**HOOVER:** "The Flame and the Flesh", Romance against an European background. **Lana Turner** and **Carlos Thompson**.

**LIBERTY:** "The Last Time I Saw Paris", Sentimental sob story involving **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Van Johnson**.

**KING'S and PRINCESS:** "Lady Godiva". A romp through 11th century England that's fun enough if you don't expect too much historical fact. **Maureen O'Hara**, **George Nader** and **Victor McLaglen**.

**NEW YORK and GREAT WORLD:** "A Bullet for Joey", **Edward G. Robinson** is on the side of law and **George Raft** provides the graft in this tale. **Audrey Totter** is the bait.

**QUEEN'S and ALHAMBRA:** "Mission over Korea", Romance plus action in a tribute to the role of the reconnaissance aircraft used in the Korean war. **John Hodiak**, **John Derek**, **Audrey Totter** and **Maureen O'Sullivan**.

**ROXY and BROADWAY:** "The Queen Bee". With a smile she stings everyone who comes in contact with her. **Joan Crawford**, **Barry Sullivan**, **John Ireland**, **Betsy Palmer** and **Lucy Marlow**.

## COMING

**HOOVER** and **LIBERTY**: "The King's Thief". Another tilt at history, moving up to Charles II's reign this time. A high grade swashbuckler. **Ann Blyth**, **Edmund Purdom**, **David Niven** and **George Sanders**.

These two cinemas will be showing some of the year's best M.G.M. pictures during the coming week. "The King's Thief" will open on Friday.

**KING'S and PRINCESS:** "Cult of the Cobra". A temple dedicated to snake worship is invaded by G.I.s. Vengeance follows them from India to New York. **Faith Domergue** and **Kathleen Hughes**.

"You're Never Too Young", **Dean Martin** and **Jerry Lewis** in another of their crazy comedies.

**NEW YORK and GREAT WORLD:** "Son of Sinbad". Scantly clad girls, a dashing hero and an Arabian Nights atmosphere is the essence of this picture. **Vincent Price** makes a convincing **Osman the Tentmaker**, **Dale Robertson** tries hard to be the hero and **Lilli St. Cyr** and **Marl Blanchard** wear hot weather clothing.

**ROXY and BROADWAY:** "The Living Swamp" and "The Dancing Masters". The former is a documentary about the swamplands of southern Georgia, with production and narration in the hands of two of 20th Century Fox's stars, **Jeffrey Hunter** and **Dale Robertson**; and the latter is a **Laurel and Hardy** comedy.

important job there can be

Now let's look at what they've done with **Lady Godiva** in the film version. For a start, she's been allowed to retain her passionate devotion to the cause of the Saxon working man—however, as most of her more fiery speeches are delivered in an American-Irish brogue, they lose a little conviction.

The famous ride, however, has been attacked with far more imagination. Although the original difference of opinion was one of policy, it was still a domestic issue. In the screen version of "Lady Godiva" we have our colleen, **Maureen O'Sullivan** to mourn for him, leaving a rather aging **John Hodiak** to mourn for her, their extremely unsuitable union provides the love interest.

**Variations On The Godiva Theme**

The Earl of Mercia and Lord of Coventry in the early 11th century, **Leofric**, was obviously a man who liked dare. His excessive taxation having brought about a great deal of bad feeling against him, his public-spirited wife became most anxious about the situation. In fact, she began to be such bore on the subject that her husband thought that only strong measures would keep the family peace.

He is supposed to have offered to "ease the burden of taxation" to use a popular phrase of the present day, if his importunate spouse would ride naked through the streets of Coventry.

**Lady Godiva** must have possessed spirit as well as long hair, because she took **Leofric** up on his offer and started the famous story. History says that he kept his side of the bargain and the citizens of Coventry were duly grateful.

It handles as simply as a car,

and in spite of a tendency to seek out every air pocket on the course, is surprisingly comfortable to ride in.

Now that some of the pictures made during the Korean war are being released, the L-5's

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## Interesting News Stories From All Parts Of The World

## HOW FIRES MAKE NEWS

**Boston.**  
You don't have to rub two boy scouts together to start a fire.

But you can achieve the same effect with a pair of woolen socks and a pair of plastic bedroom slippers.

In fact, friction between socks and slippers actually started a fire in a suitcase in a trunk of a car at Clinton, Kentucky.

That's just one of many fire curiosities of the past year reported recently by the National Fire Protection Association.

There was the man from Alabama who did not realize his trousers were afire. He had a wooden leg.

With no water available firemen at Comstock, Minnesota, stopped a grocery fire from spreading to an adjacent tavern by smashing beer bottles and dashing the contents on the walls of the saloon.

A New Jersey woman baked a \$700 pizza pie the value of cash and bonds she had hidden in the oven and forgotten to remove.

## Fire Siren Fire!

The New Holland, Pennsylvania, Fire Company was called to put out a fire that started in the fire siren of the nearby Churchtown Fire Company. The Churchtown firemen were out fighting a chimney fire.

A Fort Erie, Ontario, newspaper reporter phoned home and casually asked his wife if there was anything doing. "Our house is on fire!" she cried. The reporter went home and covered the story.

A fire hydrant was the scene of a fire at Bridgeport, Connecticut. Fumes from an underground gas line seeped up around the hydrant base and burst into flame.

## A Slasher Tells His Story

**London.**  
Notorious gang leader Billy Hill turned his back on villainy and crime recently to join the world of literary teas and high society.

Hill, who has spent 17 of his 44 years in prison, entered the literary whirl with a splashy party attended by literary figures, society leaders in mink coats and hoodlums with razorsashed faces.

Hill, who has two razor scars himself, held the party to celebrate publication of his book "The Boss of Britain's Underworld," in which he describes how he masterminded crime syndicates.

He explains in the book that he was always "careful to draw my knife down on the face . . . so that if the knife slips you don't cut an artery."

## A Distinction

Hill distinguished between criminals, who never use firearms or kill, and mugs who do.

"Cutting an artery," he said, "is usually murder and only mugs do murder."

Hill enchanted the society figures present.

Among them were Sir Bernard Docker, a prominent industrialist, and Lady Docker, who owns a gold-plated car and is an acknowledged marble-shooting champion.

The gangsters present made fun of the police by wearing cardboard police helmets. The end of the party was signalled by two blasts from a police whistle.

British newspapers expressed shock and outrage over the party.—United Press.

## St Clement Relics For Melbourne

**Melbourne.**  
The Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, unveiled a cross and two pieces of stone from the ancient bombed church of St Clement Danes, Fleet Street, in a ceremony at St Clement's Church, in the Melbourne suburb of Eastonwick. The Danish consul in Melbourne, Mr. E. Christensen, read one of the lessons because of the connection between St Clement Danes and the Danish community in London.—China Mail Special.

## AMERICAN CHURCH LEADERS SAY: LET'S PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON The Real Meaning Of Christmas

**Washington.**  
The campaign to "put Christ back into Christmas" is making headway, a church leader said this week.

Dr. Frederick E. Reissig, Executive Secretary of the Washington Federation of Churches, predicted there will be more emphasis on the religious significance of Christmas this year than there has been for a long time.

## CARDS, TOO

From greeting cards to department store windows, he said, there is gratifying evidence that Americans are responding to church appeals to rescue Christmas from "Paganism."

Church leaders woke up several years ago to the realisation that Santa Claus was rapidly supplanting the infant of Jesus.

Bethlehem as the central figure of America's Christmas celebration.

They have been making vigorous efforts to reverse the trend and to restore a measure of worship and reverence to the observation of Christ's birthday.

The Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, said the churches are not trying to take the joy out of Christmas, but simply to remind Christians of the real reason for joy which the herald angels proclaimed nearly 2,000 years ago: "for unto us is born this day a saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

## A RECIPE

Jesus was "not a Puritan," the Bishop said, and would not have his followers shun the gaiety of the season named for him, so

long as it is kept in proper perspective.

The Bishop's recipe for a Christian Christmas: "Do not despise the tinsel and coloured lights; do not despise the wrappings, though try not to get wrapped up in them; do not despise the expectancy and joy of children. But do not let the tinsel hide the kingly person."

## ADVENT

The practice of holding midnight services on Christmas Eve also is becoming widespread, even among the so-called "non-liturgical" Protestant denominations which do not observe Advent.

The campaign has not been confined to church activities, however.

For several years, Dr. Jesse Bader of the National Council of Churches' Department of Evangelism has waged a personal crusade to get greeting card manufacturers to put more "appropriate" pictures and sentiments on Christmas cards. The results can be seen in the 1955 lines now on sale.

## SANTA COES

Local federations of churches in several cities have also successfully urged leading stores to feature religious tableaux—such as the manger scene—in Christmas windows formerly given over to Santa Claus and Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer.

In Dayton, Ohio, the Chamber of Commerce sponsors a number of "Christ in Christmas" projects including radio and television programmes, restaurant prayer cards, and posters.

Many communities also are planning outdoor Christmas pageants which will reverently depict the ancient story of the Nativity.—United Press.

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## Will Satellites Bring World-wide TV?

**Chicago.**  
Man-made satellites could usher in trans-oceanic television, a scientist said recently.

Mr. R. P. Haviland, of General Electric Co., discussed the possibility in a paper presented at the 25th anniversary meeting of the American Rocket Society.

Mr. Haviland said satellites should prove valuable in commanding, weather charting and cartographic work involving relatively unexplored areas of the earth.

He and other scientists have suggested the possibility of using satellites as microwave relay stations for intercontinental teletcasts.

Scientists estimated that 10 satellites, circling the earth on different orbits and various altitudes, could provide world-wide TV coverage.

## Limiting Factor

Mr. Haviland pointed out in his paper on "application of the satellite vehicle" that present techniques are inadequate for providing trans-oceanic television. But he warned that costs would be a limiting factor in the use of satellites.—United Press.

The National Council of Churches has been quietly encouraging Protestant denominations to develop more fully the possibilities for worship during such traditional seasons of the church calendar as advent and lent.

This year a number of Protestant churches are holding special week-day services during Advent, while others are reviving in their Sunday schools the Mediaeval custom of teaching children the

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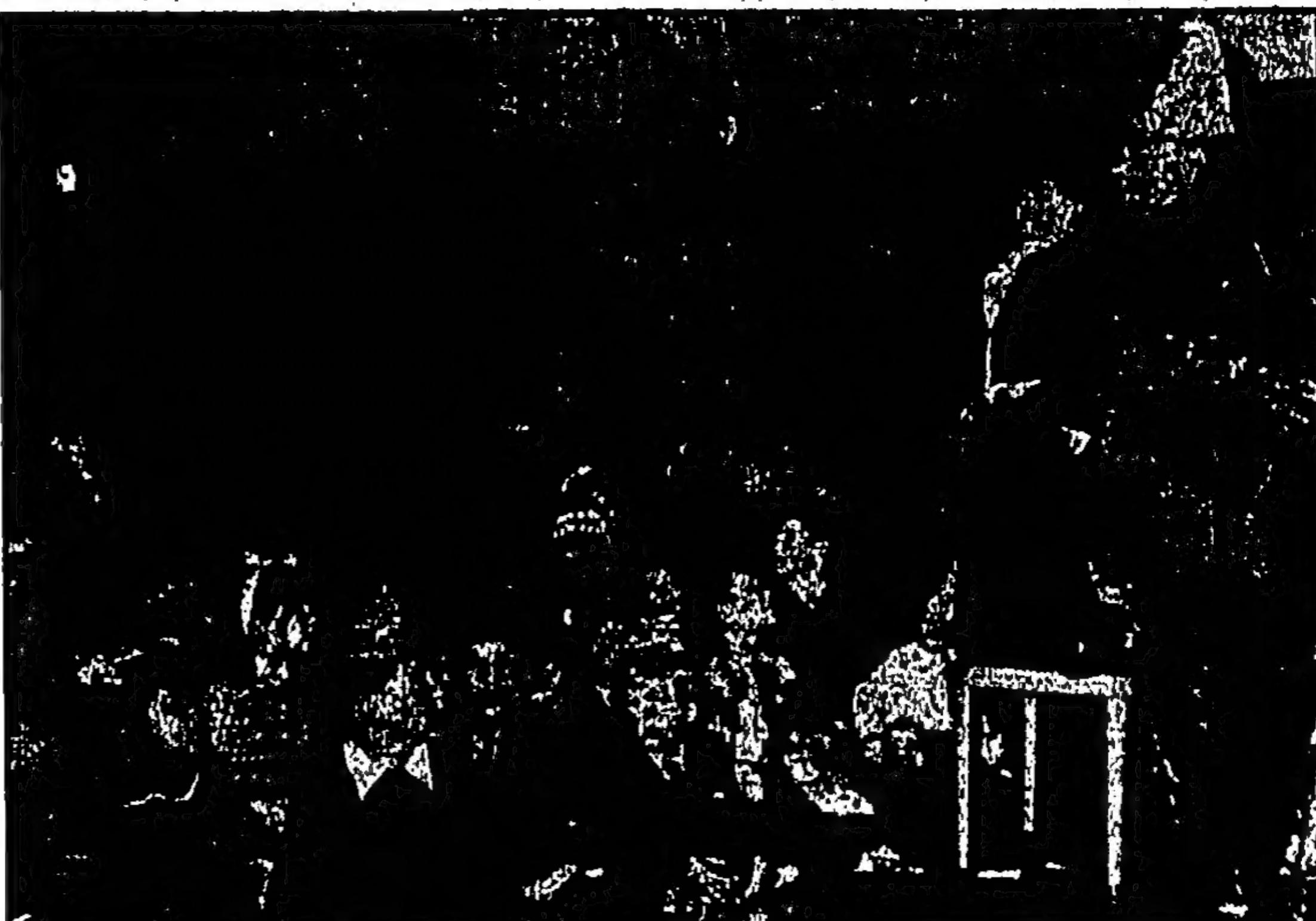
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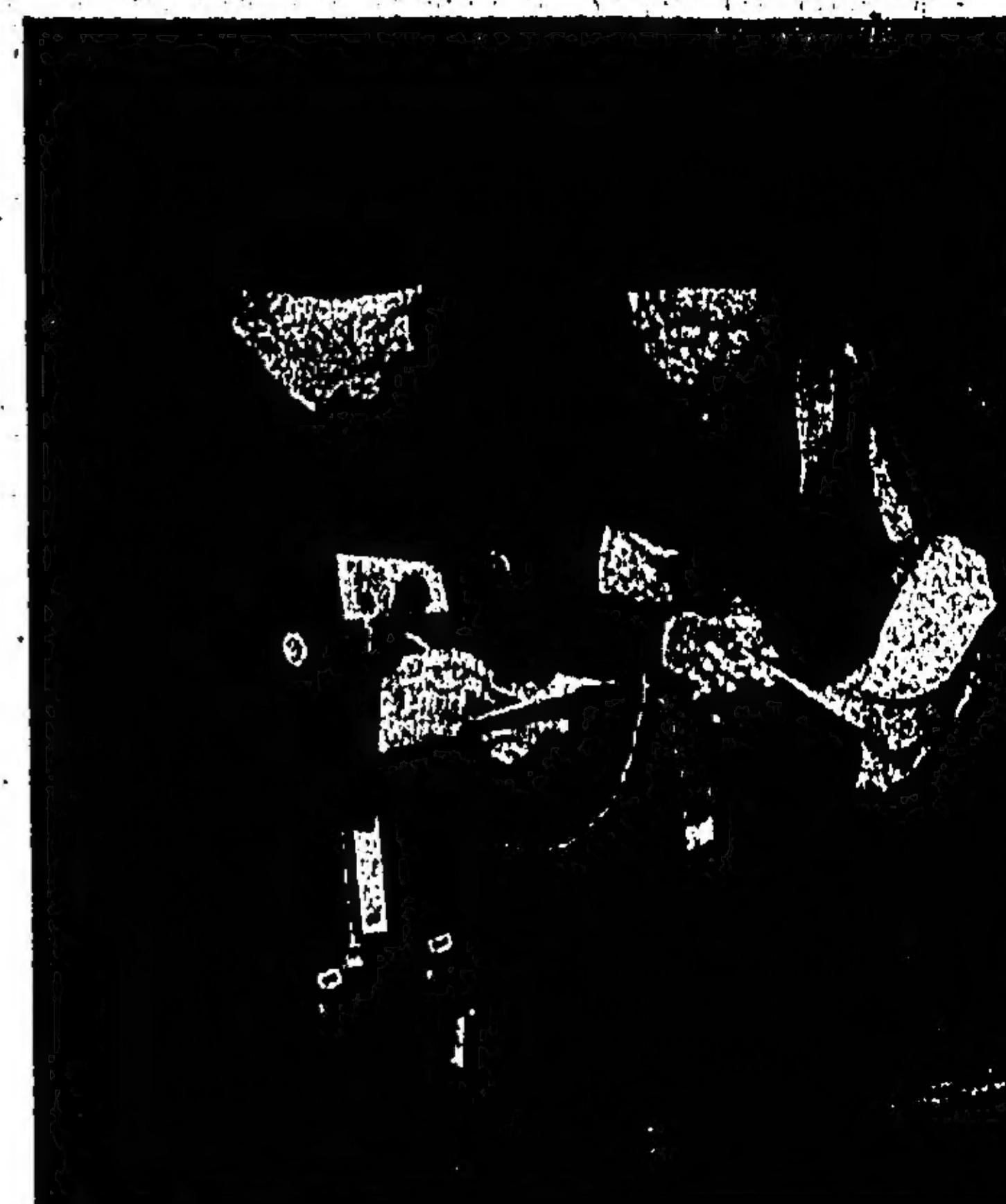
LEFT: With someone like film lovely Audrey Hepburn to distract you, it's difficult to concentrate on the age-old "What do you want for Christmas?" This little girl, however, got her wish. Picture was taken at an Associated British-Pathe studio party.



BELOW: Russian dancers of the Moscow Dance Company, currently performing in London, clap out a rhythm as British comedian Norman Wisdom tries out an impromptu number. The dancers met the comedian when they went to a private cinema to see one of his films. (Express)



CHRISTMAS put in an early appearance this year for Servicemen's children in Colchester. The kiddies, who included children of men in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and HQ 3 Infantry Division Provost Company now serving in Cyprus, met Santa at a merry party in the NAAFI Club. One of the star turns was Sunshine, the clown, here seen entertaining the children with Charlie, his famous dummy. (Army News)



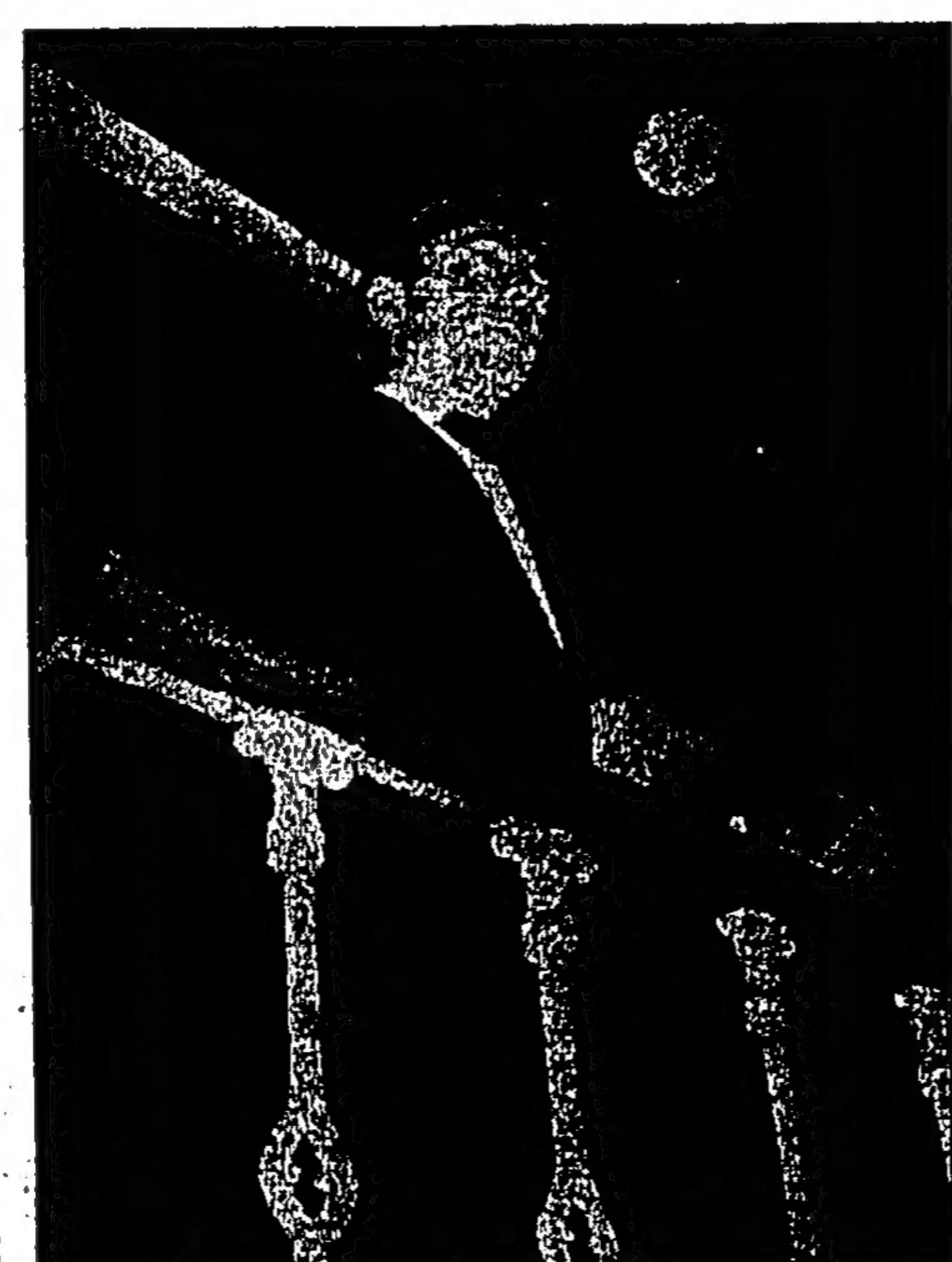
CIVIL Defence "smog men" had a field day in London last week. Teams of two men each worked through the day in various parts of the city taking periodic samples of smog by pumping standard quantities into bottles supplied by the Fuel Research Station at Greenwich. The contents were later analysed for the killer gases — sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. (Express)



SIR Winston Churchill delivering his first major speech since his retirement at a rally of young Conservatives in his constituency of Woodford. A familiar mannerism — hands tucked under lapels. (Express)



BELOW: Neville Powley, Forces Broadcasting Service producer of a series of zoo radio programmes for children of British Servicemen overseas, watches Head Keeper Jack Shelley feeding Bill, the bull seal lion at Regent's Park Zoo in London. The Shelley family has a long record of service at the Zoo. (Army News)



IN September last year, Pamela Sue-a-Quan became "Miss British Guiana." Last week, she became Mrs Brian Whittle of Southport, Lancashire. Her husband is a Warrant Officer in the Army, and they met when he was serving in Trinidad last year. Their wedding took place in Wool, Dorset. (Express)

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MOST unusual speaker at an evangelical rally at Deptford last week was 23-year-old Bill Prestwich, a former Teddy Boy now reformed. He told his hearers of his varied experiences, which landed him in gaol. Said he: "I may be wearing a Teddy Boy suit, but there's a new man inside." (Express)

**NANCY**

By Ernie Bushmiller

**HOO RAY! IT'S MY BIRTHDAY AND I'VE GOT LOTS OF MY FAVORITE ROWNTREE'S CHOCOS.**



# WHAT WAS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM?

**W**HAT did the Magi, the wise men of the East, really see? In St Matthew's Gospel their reported references to the star are vague. What is more, there is no hint given by St Matthew that the star was seen by anyone other than the Magi.

Fred Hoyle, one of the world's foremost astronomers, reports that there is no record of the star in any of the Roman records of the time. And Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Britain's Astronomer Royal, says there is no reference to it in the contemporary Chinese astronomical records.

Yet there seems never to have been any serious suggestion that the Magi's story was recorded wrongly or, indeed, that it was their imagination.

There is no disputing that the wise men did come to Jerusalem. Some extraordinary

force compelled them to leave their distant homes and make what, even today, is a difficult journey.

No evidence exists that they were either just merchants or wandering scholars.

They had without doubt come in search of a King.

★ ★ ★

To an observer on earth the two planets would have appeared close together and both would have been relatively near the earth. They would have drifted apart and come together again in the following September, according to his calculations.

The spectacle would have been awe-inspiring. And it would have been particularly impressive to observers in Palestine.

From these findings Kepler believed he could settle scholarly disputes which had been waging for centuries over the exact date of Christ's birth.

It was left to another German astronomer, Christian Ludwig Ideler (1760-1840), to elaborate on Kepler's theory. He checked the earlier calculations and reported that under certain conditions of visibility the two planets might well have appeared as one breathtakingly brilliant star.

Supporting this theory about the possibility of poor visibility was the Biblical report that the Magi, for a while, lost sight of the star and saw it again only after they had seen Herod, left Jerusalem, and were on their way to Bethlehem.

★ ★ ★

cojoined planets apparently hovering over Bethlehem.

But he admitted, although this would have appeared so near the earth, they would have been relatively near the earth. They would have appeared to be on the distant horizon.

It was this that apparently made Pritchard dissatisfied with the theory, for dissatisfied he was.

He conceded, however, that the cojoined planets might well have been the phenomenon reported by St Matthew, since he doubtless had the story at second hand.

Yet the combined work of Pritchard, Kepler and Ideler demonstrated one significant point: although no spectacular phenomenon was recorded by contemporary astronomers, it did not necessarily mean that there was none. For the indicated linking of the two planets was not recorded by them.

One knows," he said, "that there is a tendency to write things up after they occurred. It looks more as if the Magi following out the implications of Numbers xxiv, 17, had been on the look-out for a star which would herald the birth of a King in Judea; and as if a star had appeared (miraculously or providentially) in that particular quarter of the heavens where they were looking for it, at precisely the right moment.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him — Matthew ii, 1 & 2

## Make Sure Of A Happy Christmas

Says SYLVIA WARD

EVERY year, we look forward to Christmas, convinced that we are all, individually, going to have a wonderful time. But so often it happens that when Christmas has come and gone, we sit back and say, "Thank Heaven, that's over." What with Grandma sulking in the corner, Dad with a sore head, Mum feeling like a dishcloth, and the kids at each other's throats without pause, the long-anticipated festival has been something of an anti-climax.

If your Christmas is never like that, you need read no further. Mine used always to be, so I set out to discover why. First I asked myself, "Whose Christmas is it?" — and the obvious reply was "Everybody's" of course."

If Johnny wants someone to play with, he will get someone, having recognised these conflicting facts, one can set to who will play willingly and

wholeheartedly. If the youngest kiddy wants Johnny's new engine, it is Dad or Fred who copes and does the smoothing over — not me.

Of course, a lot of responsibility falls on Father. And it is absolutely essential that the day should start full for him.

If Dad's like a bear with a sore head most mornings, he's got to

forget that sore head on Christmas morning and welcome the youngsters with open arms at 8 a.m. Once settled with the new train-set, he'll usually play quite happily.

Throughout the rest of the day, Dad's help is needed pretty constantly by Mum, so she must gain his wholehearted co-operation. Don't forget to put a bottle of moral courage somewhere handy, from which Father can help himself at intervals.

As the children have been told, the day is theirs, so they will have been told that the evening

is sacred to the grown-ups. The kids are usually worn-out and feeling ready for bed by seven o'clock on Christmas Day, anyway.

Now comes the other half of the arrangement — the post-seven-o'clock period, which is the adults' and theirs alone. It has still been a wearying day, of course.

★★★

I'm limp physically, but mentally I'm a different woman. The roaring bedlam of games and squabble which were, for once, no concern of mine; the coats that were put on backwards, the teeth that went unbrushed...

I put my feet up for five minutes. I change. I hear the last glass of water going upstairs. It is 8 o'clock. No flopping in a chair in exhausted abandon, saying, "Thank heaven, that's over" for me. The children have had a happy day. Now it's our turn to have a happy evening.

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JAMES Hope Moulton, the historian who contributed the section on the Magi to the Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, pointed out that this oversight was probably due to the fact that at the time Palestine was in a fairly turbulent state.

If that was so, is it not possible that the phenomenon might have been even more spectacular and still passed unrecorded? Could it have been a completely new star?

"That," says Mr Fred Hoyle, "is physically possible."

"It is possible for a supernova, a 'new star' to explode in the sky and burn for about a week or a fortnight. But there is no record of anything like this by the Romans of the period, and they were fairly thorough astronomers. Such a phenomenon was reported about 350 years later."

"If a very bright star had appeared in the sides about the time in question it would almost certainly have been noticed. Without things like street lighting to distract him, the man in the street then knew the eight sides much better than the man in the street today... and yet there is no record of such a phenomenon."

To this Pritchard added the claim that any observer in Jerusalem that December — and the Magi were there speaking to Herod — would have seen the

BUT there still remains un-

answered the question:

What inspired the Magi to make

their journey to Bethlehem in

a short distance like that from

Jerusalem to Bethlehem, the

indefinite movement of a

heavenly body could be obser-

ved to men who weren't using

telescopes. It seems more prob-

able that the star, when it

reappeared, appeared in a new

quarter of the heavens, and

was now located (according to

the principles of contemporary

astrology) as being directly

above Bethlehem; i.e. the star

was leading them on in the

sense that it had been travel-

ling, apparently, along their

own route, and had come to a

stand (rather than 'came to a

stand') over Bethlehem".

Could something like this be

the true answer to the question?

Could the theories of astro-

nomers on the subject be

nothing more than imagination?

The question still stands...

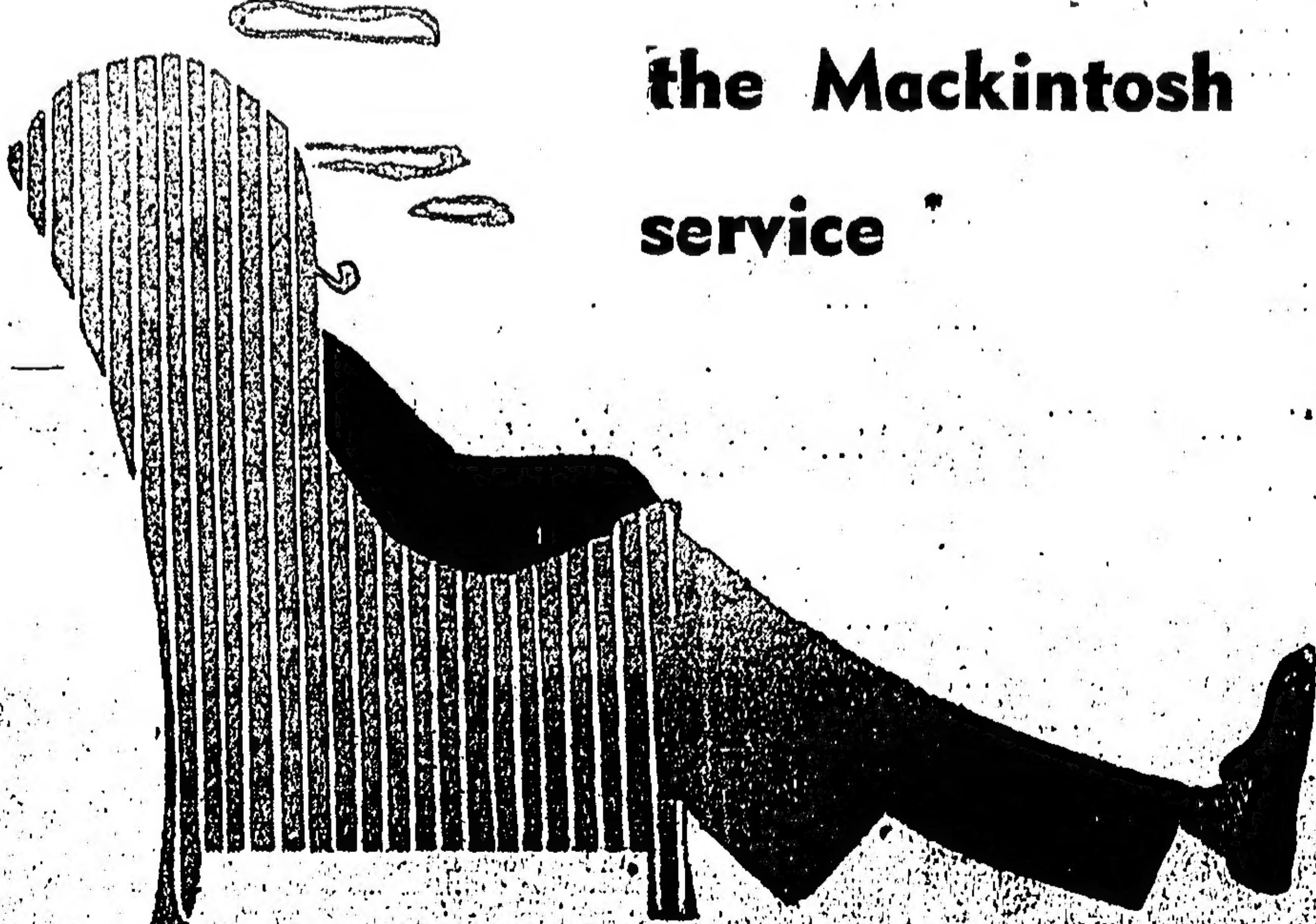
What was the Star of Beth-

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## DO GHOSTS PREFER CHRISTMAS?

By JOHN COTTRELL

THOUGH Christmas has become the traditional time for talking about ghosts, there is no good reason for believing that phantoms prefer the festive season to any other for making personal appearances. On the contrary, reports of ghosts being seen at Christmas are rather rare.

One case, however, was recorded by a Church of England clergyman, the Rev. Charles Tweddale. His Aunt Leah, he said, appeared at a party in 1905—five years after her death—and "walked clean through the Christmas tree."

There is also the sad, pale monk who is said to walk at Buckingham Palace at Christmas, and a beautiful masked ghost alleged to have joined in a Christmas party at Sandringham.

A survey of past cases indicates that other popular beliefs about ghosts are false. For instance, while many apparitions are reported to walk at night, plenty have been seen in broad daylight. And ghosts don't favour dark and deserted places. Most of them seem to like the company of the living.

What do we know for certain about ghosts? Unfortunately, few golden rules can be drawn from the accounts of witnesses. Some ghosts appear suddenly; others fade in and out. Some have a misty or transparent appearance; others look like normal people. Some walk through doors; others stop to open them.

There are also some anomalies in reports. Though ghosts are not supposed to have any substance, they seem able to move heavy objects and their footsteps can be heard. Some have even been said to block out the light.

### PUNCTUAL HABITS

VERY often ghosts are visible to one person but not to another; and as a rule, they don't speak. They also seem to have very punctual habits—the ghost alleged to have haunted a Hammersmith churchyard in 1805, 1855 and 1905 at midnight on the first full moon in August.

The 50-year cycle began last August; hundreds of people turned out to see the apparition. By 12.15 a.m., nothing had happened, so the crowd gave up the ghost and went home. But one bright young man stayed on till 1 p.m., at which time he believes he saw the phantom.

There is a third and very rare kind of ghostly occurrence where an event of long ago is re-enacted by many ghosts.

One of the best-known cases of this kind was first reported two days before Christmas, 1942, when countryfolk saw the bloody battle of Edge Hill.

### A CHRISTMAS QUIZ:

## What's the Name?

Here are the potted biographies of eight internationally known personalities—but the best-known facts about these famous people have been omitted. Can you still supply their names?

1. HE . . . was born in June 1921 . . . was educated in Scotland . . . is married, has two children . . . served in Royal Navy during the war . . . is less well-known as the Earl of Merioneth . . . had made his home in London . . . enjoys cricket, flying and sailing.

2. HE . . . was born November '30 . . . married daughter of Sir Henry Hooley . . . has four children . . . was educated at Sandhurst . . . served with Spanish forces in Cuba . . . has been a Liberal M.P. and was once Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies . . . won French Croix de Guerre in 1914 . . . hon. Citizen of Jacksonville, Florida . . . wrote a novel, "Sevendy" . . . paints as a pastime.

3. HE . . . was born in 1880 . . . was educated at Harrow . . . is a Barrister-at-Law . . . has been imprisoned on several occasions . . . has a sister who has been Ambassador to Moscow . . . lost his wife in 1936 . . . has written several books, including "Soviet Russia."

4. HE . . . was born in Shropshire in 1904, the son of a coal miner . . . is married, has three children . . . started his career as a clerk . . . has been knighted . . . has sporting interests including football and pigeon-racing . . . has two brothers who were in the same profession . . . has written an autobiography.

5. SHE . . . is 35 years old . . . studied at London and Oxford Universities . . . worked at Foreign Office during the war . . . has been features editor on a magazine . . . was later publicist for a film company . . . has a celebrated husband . . . is interested in rose-growing . . . lives at present in a world-famous street in London.

6. SHE . . . was born in Scotland, 1926 . . . was educated in Scotland and Northern Rhodesia . . . married to a writer, whose father died commanding the armed merchant cruiser Rawalpindi during the war . . . has one child . . . is an actress, though better known for her early career.

7. SHE . . . was born in America . . . is under thirty years of age . . . is married to an Olympic athlete . . . is a journalist . . . has done some of her best work in a London suburb . . . is not very tall . . . has the same initials as an award for bravery.

8. HE . . . was born in 1918 in America . . . is closely associated with a world-famous artist . . . is a mathematical theorist, meteorologist, naturalist, etc . . . once courted a young lady named Diana, but is understood to be still a bachelor and to continue to retain his maiden . . . on occasions, however, is devoted to his nephews, though he frequently flies west to work in public . . . has performed in most American sports with little distinction.

another, it is said, appeared in court to make his murderer break down and confess while on trial.

One of the tallest stories I have heard about a ghost with a purpose, concerned a woman who objected to her husband's keen interest in other ladies.

"George," she said, "if you ever make love to a woman after I'm gone, I'll come back and haunt you."

Soon after she died, so the story goes, George forgot the threat and started courting a young widow. They would meet regularly for evening walks.

One day George crept up behind the widow—as was his regular practice—and kissed her. When the figure turned round, he found it was his deceased wife.

This happened again and again. Often he went to the rendezvous and his wife would be there, dressed just like the widow. She would trick him, then vanish giving a Sottish laugh.

### THE LAST LAUGH

QUITELY exasperated, poor George decided to play a trick himself. He asked his friend Bert, to wear his suit and hat and go to the rendezvous in his place. At the last minute, he sent a note to the widow cancelling his date.

"How did you get on?" George asked his friend the next day.

"Smashing," says Bert. I crept up and kissed her like you said. Then she kissed me back."

The joke had misfired. The note had not reached the widow in time. She kept the date—with Bert. And eventually they married.

George's wife had the last laugh after all.

(CONTINUED)

According to experts, all visual ghosts are harmless. Some are even friendly. And one ghost, reputed to haunt a 600-year-old inn near Taunton, Somerset, has a charming habit. It plays skittles.

Why then do spooks trouble people? Nearly always for a special reason. The Black Flair of Newstead Abbey, is said to walk when anything is disturbed in his old home. One American ghost returned to pay his debts, and

However, in 1920, London scientists were amazed when they studied a Rumanian girl who was bitten by an unseen agent while under observation. And at Bristol, in 1781, it is recorded that an invisible hand nearly strangled a girl.

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(CONTINUED)

THIS is a fairy story, a Christmas fairy story, and the heroine is a very ordinary housewife.

As it was only a week or two before Christmas this very ordinary housewife was feeling somewhat harassed. She was thinking about the Christmas meals, wondering how much bread she would need, if the pudding was big enough, and whether the turkey would fit into the oven.

Over and over again she sorted out in her mind the sleeping arrangements she had so carefully worked out to accommodate her family and the relatives who were due to arrive on Christmas Eve. And when she wasn't thinking about that, she was counting cups and cutlery. Would there be enough to go round when the next-door neighbours came to tea and supper on Christmas Day? Ought she to borrow some cups and spoons just to be sure?

Then she sat down to make out a list of Christmas presents for other members of the family to give as well as herself.

Suddenly she put down her pencil. "The rest of the family will have a good holiday over Christmas," she thought, "But I shan't. I shall have to work harder than ever. I wonder what would happen if I left them to it—if I went on strike."

The idea grew, until eventually she made up her mind. She would strike, that's what she would do.

That evening she called the family together and announced that this year they were to cope with the Christmas arrangements.

At lunch, the turkey was overcooked, and no one had thought about the stuffing. Nothing was said about a pudding. A jelly that hadn't jelled appeared instead.

By teatime the housewife decided that it was the most miserable Christmas Day she had ever spent, and she made up her mind that never again would she relinquish her hold on domestic affairs.

Well, this is just a fairy story and like all fairy stories, it could never happen in real life. No housewife could sit back and allow anyone else to take control of that most sacred domain—her kitchen.

But it's just another way of reminding everyone that while we sympathise with the railway workers, the people at the power stations and the postmen because they have to work over Christmas, we forget that it's the housewife's busy season, too, and most homes would be in very bad way without her.

So don't let mother get to the stage where she feels like going on strike. Help her as much as possible, if it's only a matter of making the beds, laying the table and washing up. If she has to press unwilling helpers into service, she'll probably decide she might as well do the job herself and say so in no uncertain terms.

Give her as much consideration as possible, and let her know her efforts are appreciated. This is the kind of reward she will like best.

(CONTINUED)

## Spare A Thought For Mother

By JANET GREY

EVERYONE was excited and imbued with the seasonal spirit of good cheer—everyone that is but mother, whose fears grow as the shopping days speed by. Apart from the fact that none of the guests had come, Christmas Eve passed off without incident. The family kept to the sleeping plan already drawn up by mother.

But that didn't lessen the sense of foreboding with which our housewife rose on Christmas morning.

She soon realised that this time her fears were justified. Auntie Kate, who hated perfume, had a large bottle in her Christmas stocking. Uncle George, who was always conservative about matters domestic, received a gaily-coloured tie with a dancing-girl motif painted all over it. And Cousin Ethel, whose passion was highbrow music, was presented with the latest Bobop record. It had also been forgotten that she didn't own a gramophone.

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(CONTINUED)

Then they began to like the idea. After all, there had been a lot of do's and don'ts—and in fact a good deal of unnecessary fuss about Christmas past. So they called a conference to deliberate the work.

The best kind of fairy story would have a happy ending. This one hasn't.

The housewife stuck to her decision. When her friends discussed Christmas, offering and came home laden with presents talking about the prices they had to pay, she did her best to change the subject.

She watched the preparations going on at home, and she had a wife from the kitchen, helping to prepare fruit into the bowl for the pudding. She was a very conservative housewife, but it was surprising to see how easily she was won over.

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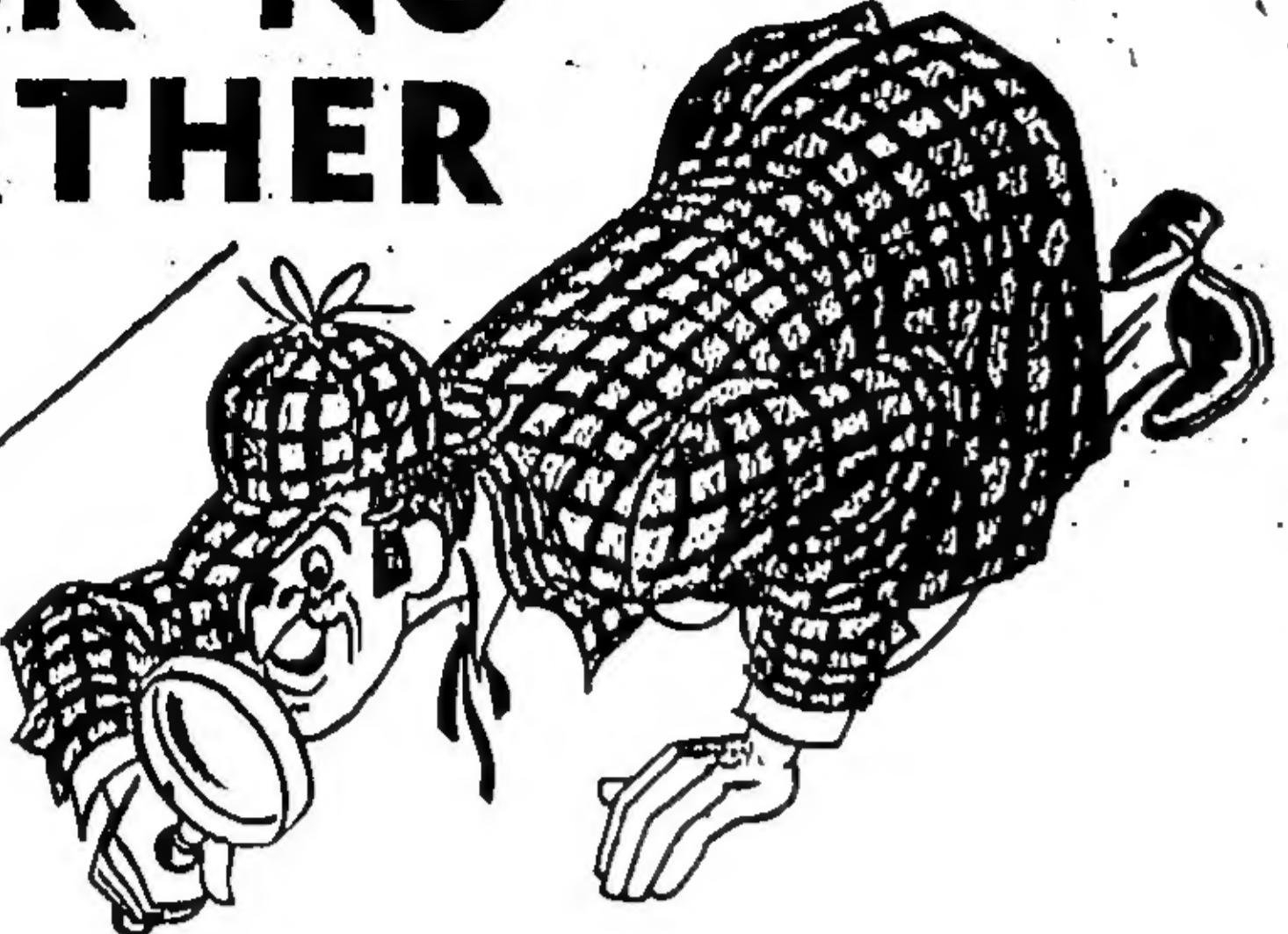
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TOYS for KIDDIES of all ages, SPORTS GOODS for athletic types  
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Bring the Family!

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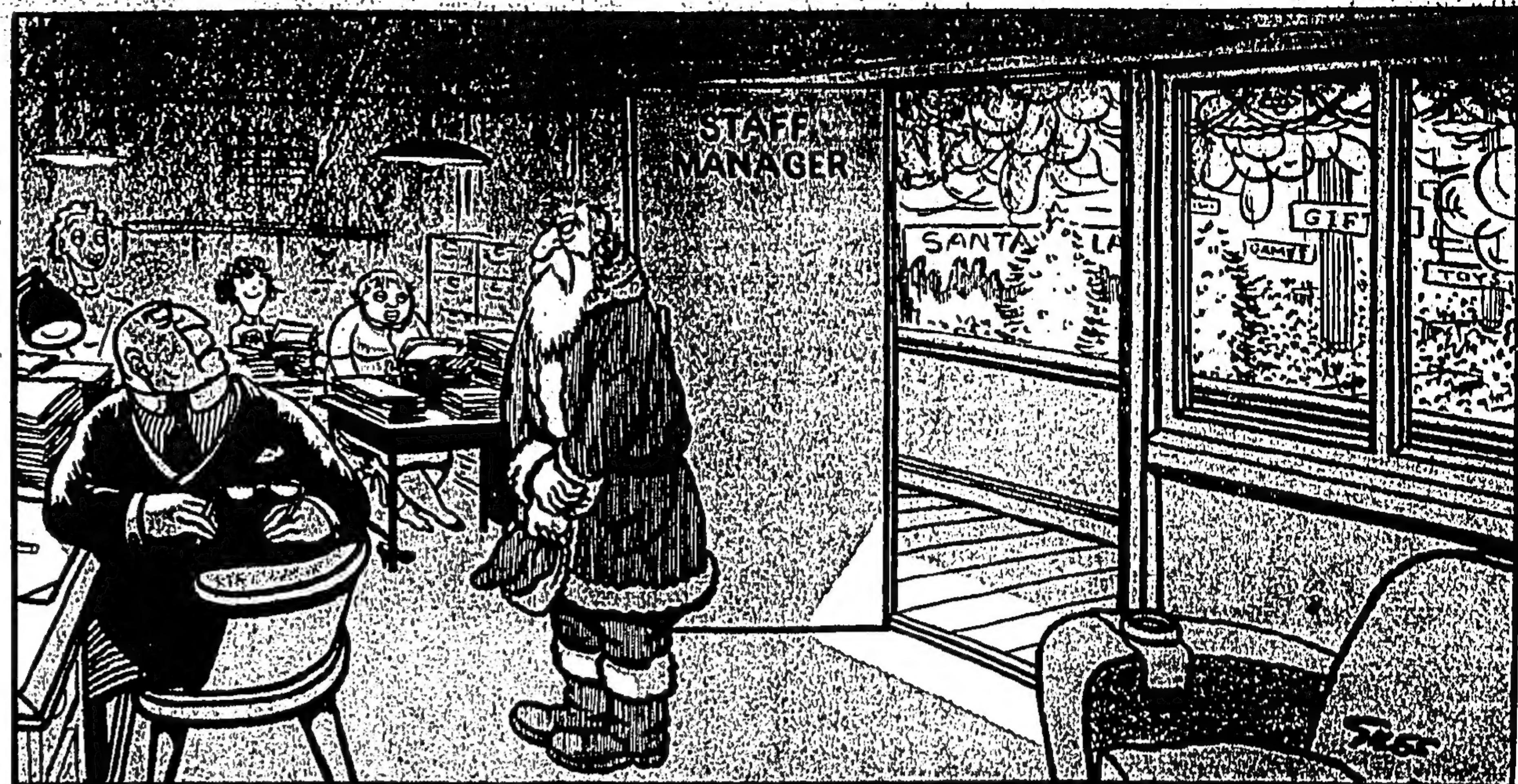
**Revlon's**



Several of these original Cole-Horsley cards have survived, and one of the most interesting is reproduced here. It was sent by Horsley to "His old young friends Emma and Agnes." (The spelling — and the rather ham-fisted witicism — are Horsley's own.)

Though this was the direct ancestor of the 500 million Christmas cards that were sent in Britain alone last year, it

**The Perfect Gift  
 to give and receive**



"And who ever heard of Father Christmas getting the afternoon off to go to a football match, may I ask?"

London Express Service

## A MAN FORGOT — THAT'S HOW CARDS STARTED

By Ronald Boxall

**I**T all began in the year that the finishing touches were put to Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Christmas was coming, and the early Victorians were laboriously writing greetings to relatives and friends. All except one man.

Sir Henry Cole (then plain Mr Cole) had fallen behind with his correspondence that winter of 1843. There just wasn't time to write to all the people who ought to be written to. But the man who founded the Victoria and Albert Museum wasn't to be put out by a little thing like that.

The idea struck him that his friends might be content with a printed card. Doubtless he felt that "after all, it is the thought that counts." Cards would at least be novel.

The artist Cole chose to design the world's first Christmas card was J.C. Horsley, a popular painter of his day.

The result was considered the last word in artistic fashion, and a thousand copies were printed at Summerly's Home Treasury Office in Old Bond Street. Those not needed by Mr Cole were sold at a shilling each.

Several of these original Cole-Horsley cards have survived, and one of the most interesting is reproduced here. It was sent by Horsley to "His old young friends Emma and Agnes." (The spelling — and the rather ham-fisted witicism — are Horsley's own.)

Though this was the direct ancestor of the 500 million Christmas cards that were sent in Britain alone last year, it

was not an unqualified success at the time. A contemporary journal, "Notes and Queries," described it thus: "A triclinium of rustic work in the Germanesque style divided the card into centre and two side panels. The sides were filled by representations of the feeding of the hungry and the clothing of the naked; in the centre compartment, a family were shown at table — an old man and woman, a maiden and her young man, and several children — and they were pictured drinking healths in wine."

Despite this disarray, however, the Christmas card industry — for that is what it had become — developed so quickly that in 1880 Sir Adolf Tuck launched a nation-wide competition to discover original ideas for his firm's cards. Five thousand entries competed for 500 guineas in prize money — a big sum in those days — and Royal Academicians acted as judges.

Enboldened by success, Sir Adolf began to commission well-known artists and famous writers for designs and verses. Lord Tennyson, the Poet Laureate, was one of those approached. Turning down an offer of 1,000 guineas for a dozen verses, the poet, then in his eightieth year, wrote to Sir Adolf:

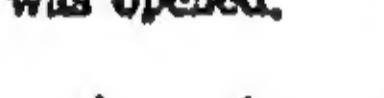
"You cannot imagine with what regret I have forsaken this opportunity of world-wide fame; for, beyond a doubt, these verses would have found their way into many far corners of the earth where I cannot flatter myself, even my name is known."

Around this time, the cards underwent a drastic change in appearance. Previously, their designs bore little, if any, relation to the season. Some even depicted summer scenes. But all that was changed with the introduction of robins, holly, mistletoe, snow scenes and other "Christmassy" motifs. The public loved them — and still do.

More and more ingenuity was now going into Christmas card production. Elaborate cut-out shapes, intricate and delicate lacework, satins and bows,

jewels and beads, gold embossing — even 3-D effects — were tried and found successful.

Animated cards began to appear. A very early one of this type depicted a Victorian maiden whose billowing skirts could be made to rise and reveal her voluminous petticoats and three or four inches of severely-stocked ankle as the card was opened.



This was thought daring at the time, but we moderns — if we have any taste at all for animated Christmas cards — demand something more exciting, like the cards which launched a rocket-ship when it is opened, or the one that plays "Silent Night" at the turn of a handle.

This did not come all at once. The search for novelty in Christmas cards was unending. One firm hit upon the idea of decorating its cards with frost that really glittered. Unfortunately, they hadn't enough crushed mica to make as many cards as the public wanted. But production went on — with crushed Epsom salts substituted for mica.

The quest for novelty proved expensive more than amusing for a certain Herr Hollinger of Germany. He found an old painting of the Holy Family in the Bethlehem stable and sent it to a friend with a scribbled Christmas greeting. The friend showed the painting to experts, who promptly identified it as a missing Rembrandt. Hollinger finally gave up trying to get it back after spending nearly £12,000 in legal fees.

No account of novelty Christmas cards would be complete without mention of the smallest

and the largest ever sent. The smallest on record was sent to the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales. It consisted of a single grain of rice on which was inscribed in Indian ink:

"To His Royal Highness  
 The Prince of Wales,  
 Sincere Christmas Greetings  
 From The  
 Joseph G. Gillot Pen Co.,  
 London, England.  
 Season 1929."

And the largest? This is believed to be a card sent to President Coolidge in 1924. It measured 21 by 33 inches.

Most Christmas greetings, however, conform to the traditional pattern. And their production keeps hundreds of thousands of people in employment all through the year. This year's cards were planned two years ago, and samples were sent to suppliers overseas at least thirteen months ago.

Indeed, the humble Christmas card has become a valuable British export. Millions are shipped abroad each year, and each has been specially selected to appeal to local tastes. People who live in sunny climates prefer traditional British scenes, thatched cottages, and old-world gardens. But there is still a keen demand for nostalgic snow scenes from Britons living abroad.



This year, more Christmas cards than ever before will be sent. Once again post offices will engage extra staff and hire additional transport to get them all to their destinations before Christmas Day. It is known that the public will ignore the exhortation to "Post Early For Christmas," just as it has been ignoring it since the phrase was coined by a harassed Postmaster-General in 1880.

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**for Christmas GIVING**



Table Linens  
 Bed Covers  
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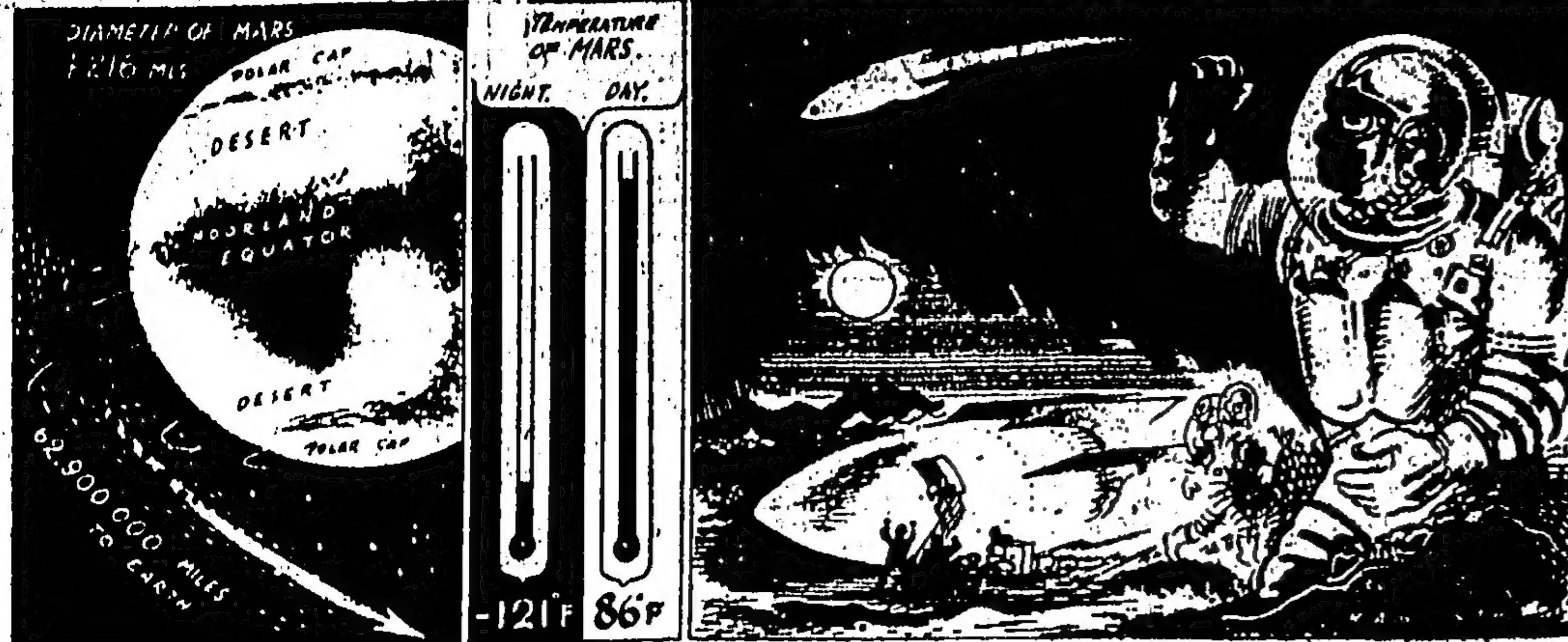
Hankies  
 Handbags  
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Silk Slips  
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Blouses  
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...and Everything Embroidered

Santa Claus Premium 70 Park Row



## Space Christmas

By WILLIAM KING

Although this is set in the future, it is based on the latest findings of research workers who are laying the foundations of interplanetary travel.

THE following is the text of the tape-recorded diary of a member of the British expedition which landed on Mars on December 24, 1993. It is the only record of the expedition so far recovered....

### 0800 CHRISTMAS DAY:

I have been struggling for an hour now to convince myself that this is really Christmas. The struggle is not merely a whim of mine. It is an order. For psychology is an all-important factor in an expedition like this.

It is not easy to convince yourself that it's Christmas here on Mars. There are no decorations in a space-ship. There are no signs of the hustle and bustle to get the Christmas dinner ready. There isn't much preparation necessary for rehydrated turkey. There was just the present from my wife—a tiny square box wrapped in tissue paper.

We agreed not to open the presents until this afternoon—when we get back from our missions. But I held it in my hand and turned it over and over, trying to guess what was in it.

You must forgive me if I seem to ramble—that is part of the orders. We have been instructed to keep talking into our microphones almost continuously from the moment we leave the ship to the moment we return. Here on Mars, a man can easily lose his grip. Talking—even to a tape recorder—helps a man keep a hold on himself.

Let me tell you a little about Mars. Taking a tract of the Sahara Desert, transport it to the North Pole, and lift it to the Stratosphere and you have a sound approximation of the conditions and the terrain.

I am standing now in the middle of a vast red desert. It is thought to be composed of iron oxide—tiny shifting particles of rusty metal. Its exact composition is one of the mysteries we are here to solve. It is red because it has absorbed virtually all of the oxygen on the planet. There is now only the tiniest fraction of it left—at least here in the desert.

That partly explains why I am wandering about in this cumbersome pressurised suit, which looks rather like the things you used to see years ago in the drawings which accompanied science fiction. Of course, it is a good deal more flexible and less like a suit of armour than those. Freedom of movement is all important.

The other reasons are that the suit is heavy and that it is relatively impervious to shifts in temperature. It has to be heavy. A man on Mars weighs only a tenth as much as he does on Earth, and I should shoot high in the air with every step we take. The temperature fluctuated from about 120 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) at night to close to 80 degrees above zero in the afternoon. But for the suit, life would be a continual shuffle from a Turkish bath into a refrigerator—or almost. Not quite, of course, because there is almost no water vapour here, either. Without the damp, the heat and the cold are much more tolerable.

Anyhow, here I am, as I said, in the desert. To be precise, in the desert just south of the Martian north pole.

We landed, yesterday, near the pole, because our biggest job here is to track the "canals" which lead from the polar regions, where there is ice in the six-month long Martian winter, towards the equator.

The "canals" are the long, straight, criss-crossed lines which have fascinated astronomers ever since Lowell mapped them in 1890. No one has ever been sure just what they are. But they may be waterways—irrigation canals—dug by the "Martians" to preserve life on a dying planet.

that little box is the only reminder of reality.

1100:

It is even possible that, in them, there is oxygen. It is even possible that there is something living in or near the "canals". It is almost certain, anyway, that there are plants growing near them—tiny lichen mosses.

This morning, I hope to find out.

My job is to find one of these "canals" and then report back to the ship as quickly as possible. We can stand just about three days here and then we must return.

But today, I must find a "canal" and then get back.

I hope to be back for the half hour in which we will have a real "Christmas" aboard the ship.

No, wait, there are sounds on it now. Static. But regular static. Could someone be jamming the radio waves? Or is it just another trick of the Martian atmosphere?

The cloud of sand in front of me looks like a London fog, only it has this strange red colour. No nostalgia about that.

I think the wind is dropping a bit. Yes, I can see the "greenery" again now.

It looks like a bed of moss. But there is definitely a depression behind it.

Here we go.

1200:

I have been making good progress. If the astronauts' maps are right, I should reach the "canal" by noon. But a strong wind is whipping up. I have just radioed the ship, and the men who headed north have been enveloped in a sandstorm, or should I say a metal storm? They have lost contact with the ship, for the moment, anyway.

I couldn't get much information from the ship because they asked to cut off in order to devote all their frequencies to attempts to make contact with the lost men.

The winds and the sands are our biggest enemies.

The dawn is just breaking. The Martian night—with its stars a thousand times clearer than any stars you can see from an earthly desert—is the sort of night which might well have inspired the men who watched on the first Christmas to believe a miracle was in the

haze.

No one has seen any sign of the man who went west and found the "canal".

Nothing interesting, yet. Just this slab of rock...

I must get back soon. I wonder what will turn up in that present from my wife.

That is the only contact we seem to have with the Earth. For Mars is too far away for radio contact. Just those presents, waiting to be opened...

A space-ship is like a battleship converted into a hospital—neat, compact, hygienic, smelling

a little of air conditioning and

disinfectant, completely impersonal. None of us has any personal possessions with him. They would take up space urgently needed for equipment—equipment that may save our lives.

But we were each permitted to take one Christmas present with us—one minute box with a human touch about it.

Ah—there's a hole in the rock. A round, smooth hole. Like a hatch or a manhole cover.

And there are rumblings there... It could be a Martian "spring"—burbling steam like those geysers in New Zealand. Or a small volcano?

What we know about the interior of Mars makes it seem doubtful. But still...

No, I could swear there is something moving...

Maybe I'm losing my grip. But here goes to find out...

### NOTE:

The recording ends there. True to his word, the explorer dropped it beside the "canal".

or what he thought was the "canal" before he went to investigate.

The second British expedition landed on Mars in June 1994. The first space-ship had been wrecked in a sandstorm. No survivors were found, and where the "second" was located, there was no sign of a "canal".

Just more open desert. The second expedition found no "canals" and returned home after a day and a half, when serious sandstorms were started.

A third expedition will land next year, in the hope that the mystery can be cleared up. There is still no positive evidence that the explorer who recorded the above diary did—though his chances of survival seem slim.

The third expedition is expected to be much more advanced, with a larger crew and more equipment.

It is hoped that the diary will be recovered and analysed.

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- Tattersall Check Waistcoats
- Tootal Dressing Gowns
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- Sweaters
- Cardigans



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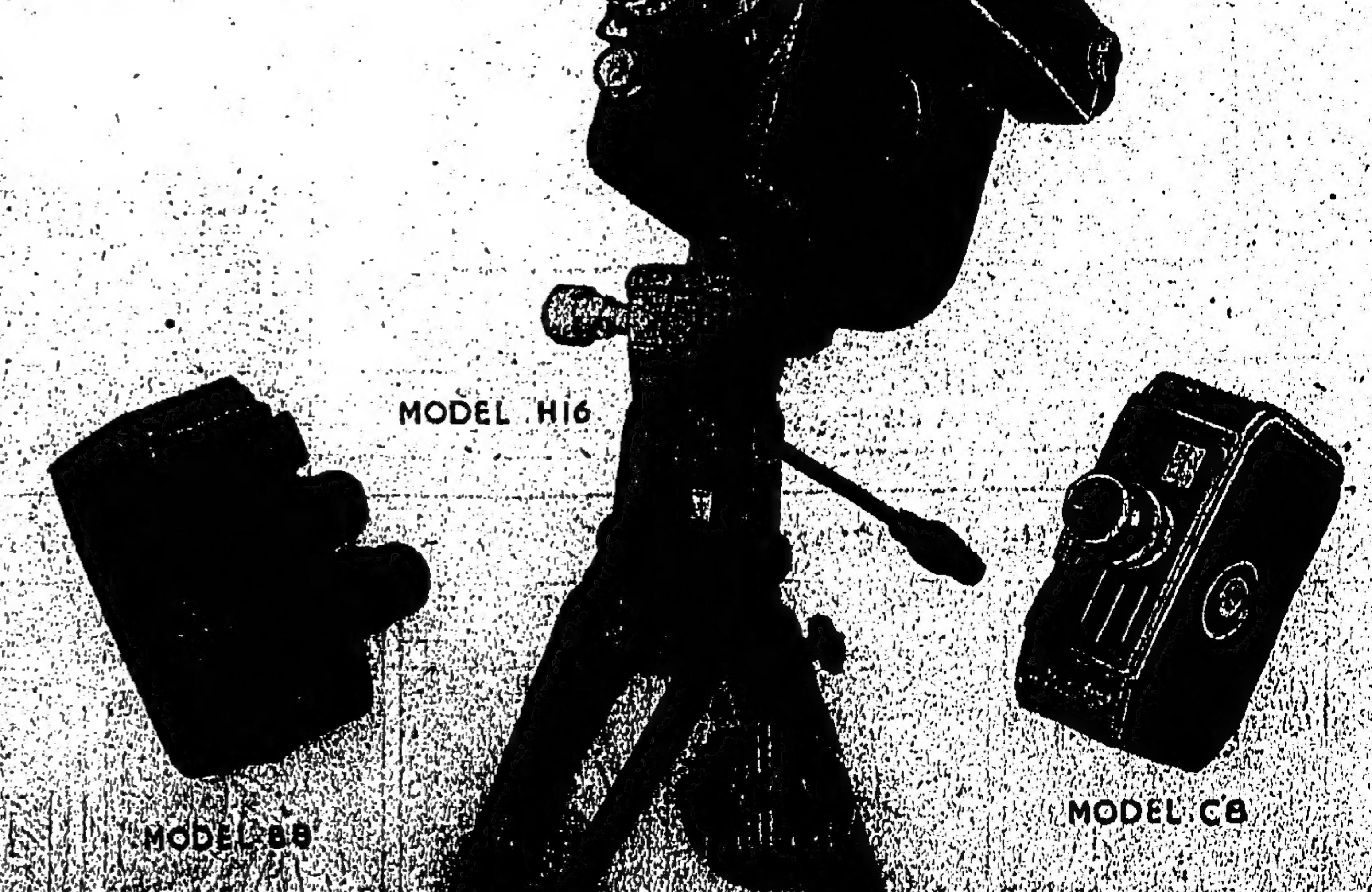
Bolex  
pailard

Superior in every feature,  
in every way.

Keep your memories alive

with these

Jewels of Precision



### WELL, WHAT D'YOU KNOW!

## EVEN CIVILIANS CAN WIN THE VC

BRAVE deeds are done in every war, and World War II was no exception. Yet only 181 Victoria Crosses were won between 1939 and 1945, as compared with 561 between 1914 and 1918. The Korean War produced only two V.C.s. It looks as though the world's most coveted medal is getting harder to win.

Many people have the idea that the V.C. is awarded to men only. But it can be won by women. For that matter, anyone can win it—even a civilian, provided he or she is under the orders, direction or supervision of the military, naval or air forces. And the act of valour doesn't have to be in the face of the enemy, as is popularly supposed.

In 1858, two years after Queen Victoria instituted the award, the Royal Warrant was amended to cover other acts of gallantry. Private Timothy O'Hea won his V.C. on June 9, 1860, for putting out a fire in a railway ammunition car.

### COLOUR BAR TILL 1911

Until 1911, only white serving men could win the red or blue—ribbon. (It was blue for Naval V.C.s until August 1910), and the award was not open to nurses before 1920.

For more than eighty years, the medal was made from cannon metal cut and since 1942, it has come from the Royal Mint.

Winning the V.C. brings great honour—but little else. There is an annuity of £10 a year for non-commissioned holders only, plus sixpence a day added to a pension. The annuity can be raised to £75 a year in cases of extreme poverty.

### EXTRA £5 NEVER PAID

An additional £5 a year is awarded to double-V.C.s, if they are non-commissioned. But so far it has never been paid. Only three men have won a bar to the medal, so far, and they were all officers.

Although the actual value of the V.C. is but a few shillings, it attracts big money from collectors. One was sold for £140.

That's why counterfeits have tried their hands at forging the medal.

Two fake V.C.s were discovered in 1934. One was supposed to have been the original medal won by a Private of the 4th Hussars in the glorious Charge of the Light Brigade.

The other was thought to be Private O'Hea—the man who put out the fire in 1860. But that V.C. lies safely in the Royal Mint Museum.

(CONTINUED)



HELP YOURSELF-

THEY'RE FACTORY-FRESH!

## DRIESSEN CARROS

Holland's Finest Chocolates

### "SCANDAL"

BY

LANVIN-PARIS

NOT SCANDALOUS AT ALL . . .

BUT JUST A RICH, LASTING  
PERFUME

ON SALE AT

All Leading Perfume Retail Shops,  
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*Malayan Pacific Airways Ltd.*



IT hasn't been registered at the College of Heralds yet. But as a crest for Britain's toymakers, could it be bettered? "A hand dexter with forefinger extended, the whole surmounting the legend, 'Ma, gimme that for Christ-mas.'"

For on that piping heart-  
y and that pudgy finger  
stabbing at a tinsel-hung  
shopwindow has been built  
one of Britain's bigger  
money-spinners—the world's  
greatest, most thriving, toy  
industry.

Maybe it's good for the  
balance sheets. But when big  
business moved in on Toyland  
it was "goodbye" to the old  
magic.

In these high-powered times  
any old hammer that tried  
tapping at some childlike bubble  
would get short shrift. Before  
you could say "Saint Nicholas"  
a shop steward would be breathing  
heavily down the hammer  
of his neck and wanting to know if  
he was paid up with the Federated  
Fairies' Union.

POOR old Santa Claus's work-  
shop would last about two  
minutes under the hard-eyed  
scrutiny of any self-respecting  
factory inspector. And that  
goes for Rudolf the Red-Nosed  
Reindeer if he gets in the way  
of some airline freighter carrying  
export-only toys.

So, if you have old illusions  
that need shattering, just wheel  
them along to any large, air-  
conditioned, super-efficient Bri-  
tish toy factory one afternoon.

If the old magic has dis-

appeared, though, the business  
barons—give them their due—  
have injected a new sort of  
magic into toy-making. The  
magic of precision engineering,  
laboratory experiments, scientific  
testing, ruthless efficiency  
and split-second reaction to  
market changes.

Christman is coming and the  
public—that big fat goose—is  
getting ready to lay its annual  
golden egg. Ruddy-faced gents  
—how do they spend the rest of  
the year?—are preparing to stuff  
pillows under their belts, dis-  
appear behind cotton-wool  
whiskers and become the once-  
a-year legion of £1-a-week  
Santa Clauses. The fairy lights  
and tinsel are coming out of  
cold storage.

But don't let it kid you. It's  
just a front, a concession to the  
old magic, by the big-time toy-  
makers who have been busy  
since last December 27—even

business men put their feet up  
on Christmas and Boxing Day—  
getting ready for the public's  
mid-winter splurge.

Toy-making is big business

all the year round, with up to

the minute efficiency the key-

note. The chief of one of Bri-

tain's biggest manufacturers can

boast that his machine-pre-

and plastic sections can equal,

if not better, anything like them

in the country.

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if not better, anything like them

in the country.

And any manufacturer who including diapers that really do-  
n't give them what they need changing—if you see what  
want can tell his story to the I mean.

Economists with a psycholo-  
gical bent might care to work

out the wants of interna-  
tional infancy. Maybe the nation

that produced Peter Pan has,

itself, some unaware kinship

with that eternal spirit. Youth

calls to youth, and all that.

They might care to spare a

thought, too, about whether

manufacturers or the kids them-  
selves drove the magic out of

toys. For the youngsters are as

thirsty-headed and realistic as the

industry itself.

So exacting is the demand

that toymakers have to work

hand in glove with the people

who make the real-life proto-

types of their products.

As soon as a new era comes

on the market the manufac-

turers get requests from toy-

makers for blueprints. The same

goes for every other sort of

real-life machine calculated to

appeal to the modern boy.

At the same time a close

watch is kept on the shiny

fashion magazines. A doll put

onto the market with a ward-

robe not just up-to-the-minute

—and sales would plummet.

For TOYLAND

By Yorke Henderson

If a boy wants a toy automobile, he wants it to look exactly like the real thing, and not just vaguely like it. For the girls, a baby carriage has to be a miniature reflection of the one Mum or Auntie pushes. Nowadays the average under-teenage miss turns up her nose at the doll that just says "Mama." To satisfy, like, with a compete wardrobe,

And just to keep the ideas

active the constant cry goes out for something new,

always something new.

With markets to capture and

keep, the makers maintain a

security network around their

latest products that would do

credit to an atom plant. Just try

to get near a toy experimental

section and find out

if it's got to be absolutely life-

like, with a compete wardrobe,

(COPRIGHT)



In one of Britain's biggest toy factories, scale models jet fighters, powered by tiny motors, and given a final test before packing.

### A RELIC OF ROMAN DAYS

IN Britain, thousands of children are looking forward to their great annual treat—the Christmas pantomime—which in reality reverts to ancient Roman days when, to celebrate the feast of Saturnalia, men and women changed clothes.

Pantomimes in Britain were first produced 300 years ago, when there were always comic acts with clowns, harlequins and a ballet dancer. Gradually this representation was thrust to the end of the performance which presented some well-known fairy story.

In British pantomimes the "principal boy" (reminder of the old Roman festival) is always a girl, while the middle-aged woman or "dame" is a man whose duty it is to awaken humour and arouse laughter.

Every year, pantomimes, held in the chief provincial theatres and in some London ones, include topical jokes and allusions, and this year, no doubt, many good-natured quips will be heard and well received.

Modern pantomimes are essentially musical shows, introducing the latest popular song and dance hits. Among this year's featured numbers will be many all-British compositions.

1855 1955  
CENTENARY CHRISTMAS

XMAS GIFTS  
at \$10.00  
OR LESS  
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On our Mezzanine floor  
we have arranged a special  
Gift Counter that is  
stocked high with really  
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IDEAL AS "STOCKING  
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Gifts Galore....  
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FOR WOMEN IN LOVE

28 JES 4000 HONG KONG TEL. 34072

## NEW! A watch that is watertight and elegant too...



No sportsman, and no one whose job or leisure activity brings them into contact with water or steam, should be without a watertight watch. Hitherto, watertightness has been achieved at the expense of elegance, for cases had to be thick and heavy to accommodate the necessary sealing. But now, Cyma craftsmen offer you the Cyma Navystar, a new, ultra-thin watch. Its case is made of special rustproof quality steel, and is so designed that slimness is combined with faultless sealing and outstanding strength and precision.

A unique feature of the Cyma Navystar is the sealing of its winder, one of the most fragile parts of the watch. Embodied in the winder is a minute device incorporating a spring system which counteracts wear, thus ensuring permanent watertightness. The rim which accommodates the back of the Cyma Navystar is extra wide and incorporates a new, patented winder system. This enables greater compactness in design and ensures that the sealing of this outstanding watch is completely reliable. All Cyma Navystar sealing is made of a new metal which permanently retains its elasticity and neither crushes nor wears. The main sealing is situated where it cannot be damaged from the outside.

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## S. CLAUS FILLS HIS EXPORT ORDERS PHONE CALL FROM BULGANUSCHEV

—By John McKenna—

Vassili Vorislov raised his eyebrows.

"Wha t?" he said.

"Christma s Eve," Georgi repeated, with a

wry glance at the thermometer outside the window. It read 62 degrees below zero—Fahrenheit.

Vassili snorted. "Bourgeois idiot," he said. "I suppose you'll be looking for Santa Claus next."

Georgi grinned and got up from his desk. "Light up there," he said. "Looks like a customer—pardon me, comrade, like a citizen—waiting to be served."

"Sir?" It queried.

"See here," said S. Claus, "who in the name of Christmas is Ivan Ivanovich Grodnodski? And what does he mean putting through an order for one 'junior spaceman's suit and one gamma ray disintegrator pistol'? I can't find him listed anywhere as an accredited retailer."

The elf shuffled his feet. "Sir, he isn't sir," he said. S. Claus' beard bristled.

"What do you mean 'he isn't'?" "Just that, Mr Claus, sir. He isn't an accredited retailer."

Then, what?" demanded S. Claus in an ominous whisper.

"Is he?"

"I think he's a schoolboy, Mr Claus, sir."

"And who's it for? Ivan Grodnodski, Rzhev? I'm afraid I'll have to check that against the official list later, comrade."

"Meanwhile your papers, please."

"What? You haven't got any. Say you don't need any? Most irregular, comrade. Of course, I understand that with this kind of shipment unusual carriers are often employed. But I'll have to check."

"Name?"

Georgi's eyes opened with wonder. But he wrote "S. Claus" dutifully on the form.

He thought for a moment and then he decided that the space he had been tempted to write "man" on the inventory had better be left blank.

"Just wait a moment, will you, comrade?" he asked. "I really must check all this with Comrade Vorislov."

Georgi read through the form and snorted again. He sometimes thought it was the only reaction he had left.

He went to the shelf and took down the massive "S" volume of the "People's Guide to Revolutionary Myths and Misleading Deviationist Fiction Including a Full Guide to Capitalist Hyenas".

"Claus, S." he read in a low measured tone. "A deviationist myth of the capitalist system, a non-existent person used extensively by capitalist hyenas to..."

He stopped. "Non-existent," he said. "That's the point."

"Ivanovitch," he roared. "You know there's no provision in the constitution for the admission of non-existent persons to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

"What do they teach you young idiots at bureaucrats' school these days?"

"Come to think of it," he added in a quaking whisper, "there's no provision for NOT admitting non-existent persons to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, either."

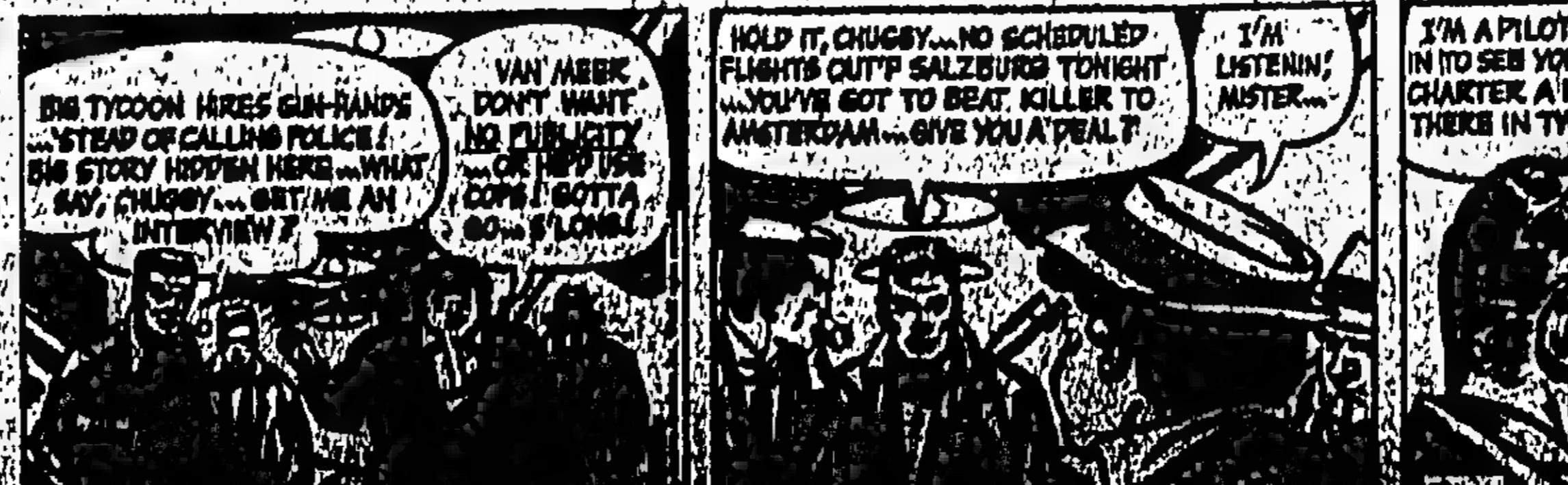
"Give me the telephone."

In Moscow, Stepan Serionov had gone to bed.

He was trying hard to drive down thoughts of plum puddings out of his mind.

The rattling telephone brought him wearily to his feet.

### JOHNNY HAZARD



through. He had at least got one clear decision from all the ministers. S. Claus was non-existent and everything he had said was "All normal trapplings of the myth," the Myth people assured him, must be non-existent, too.

He devoutly hoped that Ivan Ivanovich Grodnodski was pretty high up in the MVD.

"You say you have a problem?" S. Claus asked amiably.

"You say small boys all over the country are demanding junior spaceman's suits and gamma ray disintegrators? Why don't you send them to Siberia?"

"You say there are 6,233,471 of them and it would be awkward? Quite. And besides you want a gamma ray disintegrator yourself?"

"I see. You're an accredited wholesaler? You own all of Russia? How's your credit?"

"Yes, quite. You can guarantee distribution? Ah, yes. Rather irregular of me, I admit; I don't usually deal with individuals and I think I may not need to again. But there's one more thing..."

It was barely dawn when the cheerful bald-pated little man who was the Commissioner of all Commissars and who called himself Bulganushev just to create a little confusion among his front men—got to his desk.

Already the telegrams and the phone messages had begun to pour in as the other Commissars rejected the massive correspondence about Ivan Ivanovich Grodnodski.

The Commissar of all Commissars read it quickly and picked up the bright red telephone on his desk. He waited until everyone was clearly out of earshot. Then he dialed a secret number.

WEARILY, Mr Bulganushev called his secretary.

"Take a note for Pravda," he said. "And for the Soviet Encyclopedia. And for the People's Guide to Revolutionary Myths and Deviationist Fiction (including a Full Guide to Capitalist Hyenas)."

"Claus, S. A. well-known hero of the People's Progress, has contributed extensively to peace and harmony in the Soviet and to the moral and educational welfare of countless small boys..."

"Now, bring me my gamma ray disintegrator and my junior spaceman's suit!"

(COPRIGHT)

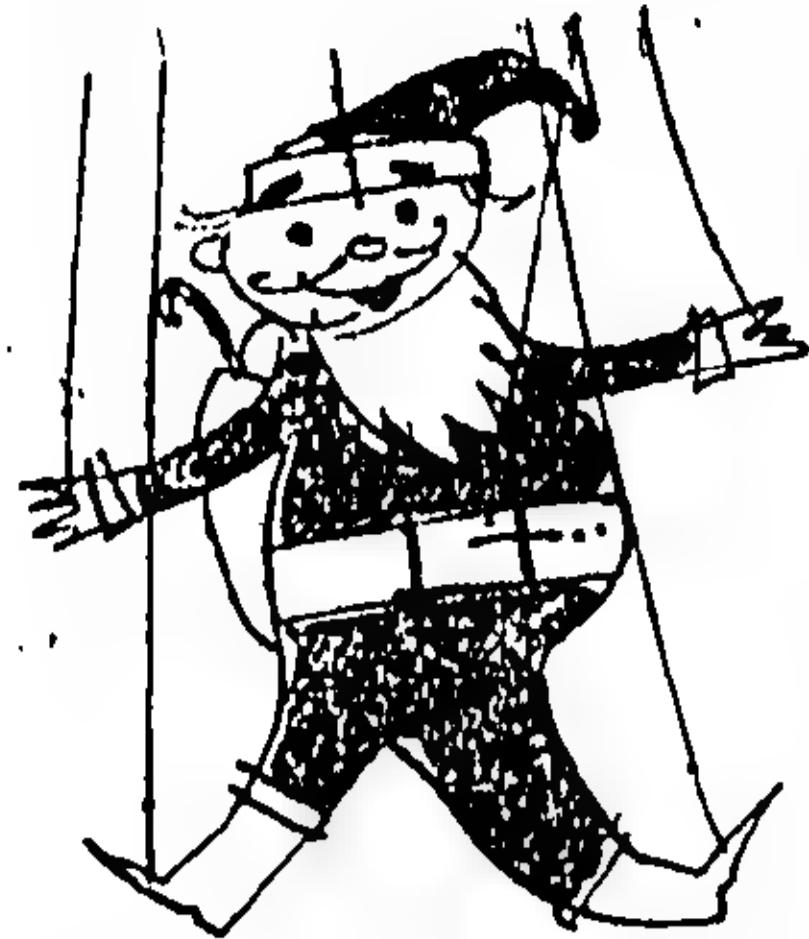


By Frank Robbins



...this situation calls for a

Sam Miguel



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Yuletide Womansense  
IT'S THE SHORT DRESS FOR  
THIS CHRISTMAS

HOW can you fit yourself out fashionably (but not too expensively) for the Christmas party season? For the answer I went to three top London designers, Michael Sherard, Ronald Paterson and Michael.

We discussed the dress first and agreed that the short evening style was the most practical. A woman may feel her best in a full-length dress, but the short version, in a non-dating colour and long-lasting fabric, wins hands down for versatility.



Elizabeth has sketched two of the new evening styles by London's top designers. Left: Ronald Paterson makes this short evening dress, with the slim-slim skirt and flowing overskirt, in brown and gold brocade.

Right: A flowing ball dress from Victor Stiebel in a new material — printed satin. The bodice is swathed and mounted with a yellow sash.

On colour: "Everyone says wear black for the evening. But I say wear black only if black suits you—and it has to suit you extremely well before you can carry it off in the artificial light of the evening. Choose a colour—red, coral, pink—that looks good against a man's dinner jacket. Women never think of that and we are always terribly hurt. Women should do their bit out of compliment to us by going into colour!"

On evening coats: "Five women out of ten can't afford a fur coat these days. So invest in an evening coat that will last for years. Make it as simple as possible, triangular in shape with

a full back. An evening coat is

something special; you are not just buying it for now. It should be dark in colour for practical reasons. In bronze, for instance, which lights up in the evening and goes with red, blue and green tones."

On accessories: "There is a wonderful choice of sparkling junk jewellery just now, and I like to see it piled on necklace after necklace. Long gloves, shoulder high, are important. They make an outfit look finished, while short gloves look unbalanced."

Imagine a tailored coat cut on straight-up-and-down lines, with big revers and big patch pockets, in Italian pink satin. Or a more casual style, with rounded shoulders, edge-to-edge front, in red satin faced with green. Or a style for Christmas in a cold climate in white tweed lined with crimson satin to tone with the dress beneath. Effective? Yes—and practical.

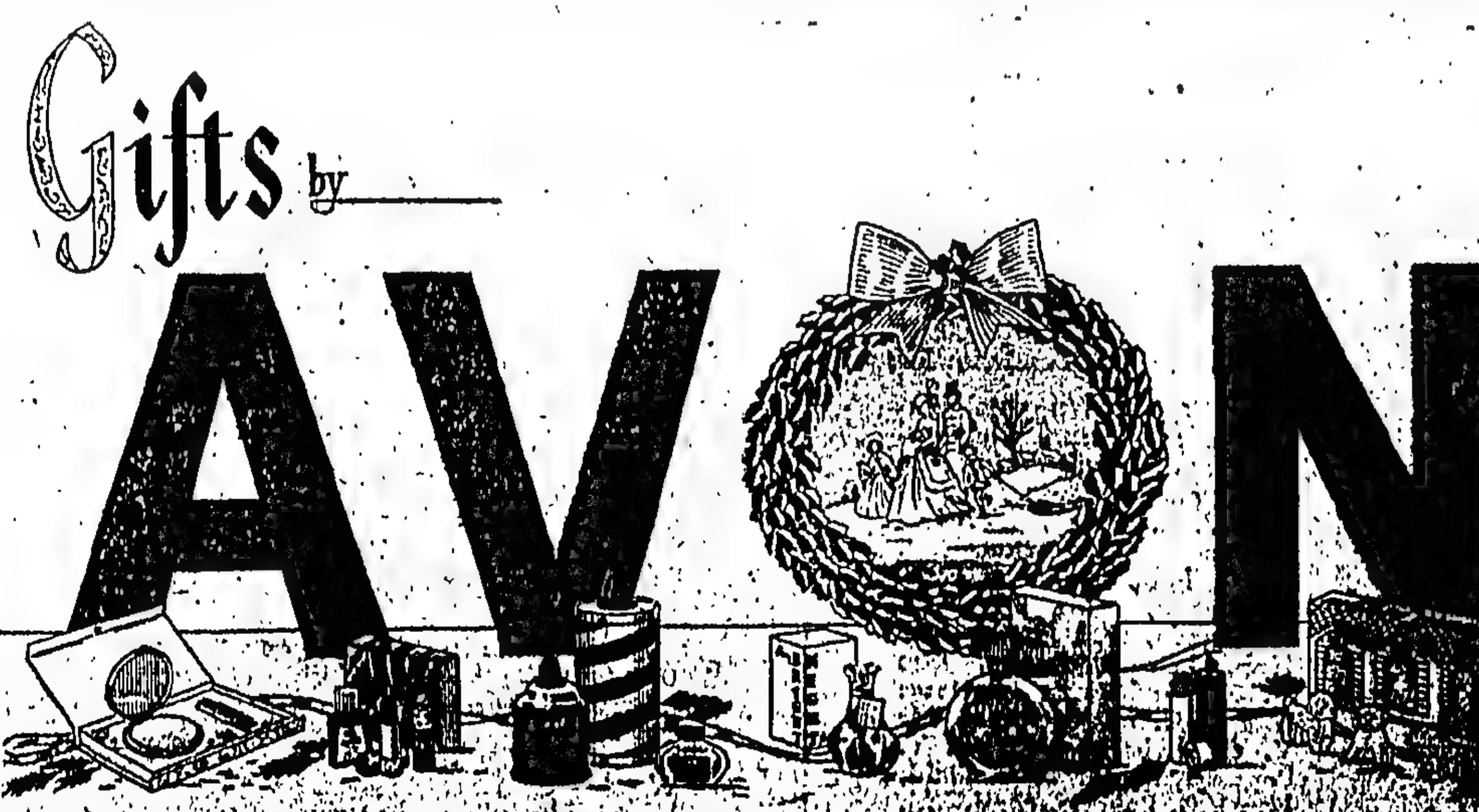
In accessories, a lot of the new ideas are in hair decorations. Latest idea for a chignon could be a bracelet of gold braid to circle the bun, or a posy of flowers attached to a comb and spiky into the bun.

Newest style in hats can be the plain, low-cut spike-heeled court in one of the new metallic brocades. In evening handbags, the latest idea can be the pochette, shaped like a purse but several sizes larger, and made up in a suitably glamorous fabric. Here again the metallic materials are first choice.

— Dorothy Barkley



Perfect for the festive season is this chic double-breasted leopard coat from Lanvin-Castillo. It has a big collar of black fur.—Agence France-Presse.



See Advert. CANTON SWITZERLAND

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THE former Director of Urban Services and Chairman of the Urban Council, Mr H. G. Richards, was seen off by a large number of friends when he left last week for Spain prior to retirement. His successor, the Hon. D. R. Holmes (right), saying goodbye to him. (Staff Photographer)



PICTURE  
taken at the  
banquet given  
at the Kam Ling  
Restaurant to  
celebrate the  
wedding of Mr  
Ching Mun-  
chung and Miss  
Mak Yiet-sim.  
(Stoff - Photo-  
grapher)



MAJOR G. G. Fowke (right), Military Assistant to the Commander, British Forces, who is leaving Hongkong soon for another post, admires a silver cigarette box presented to him by members of the Household Brigade Comrades Association as a farewell momento. (Staff Photographer)



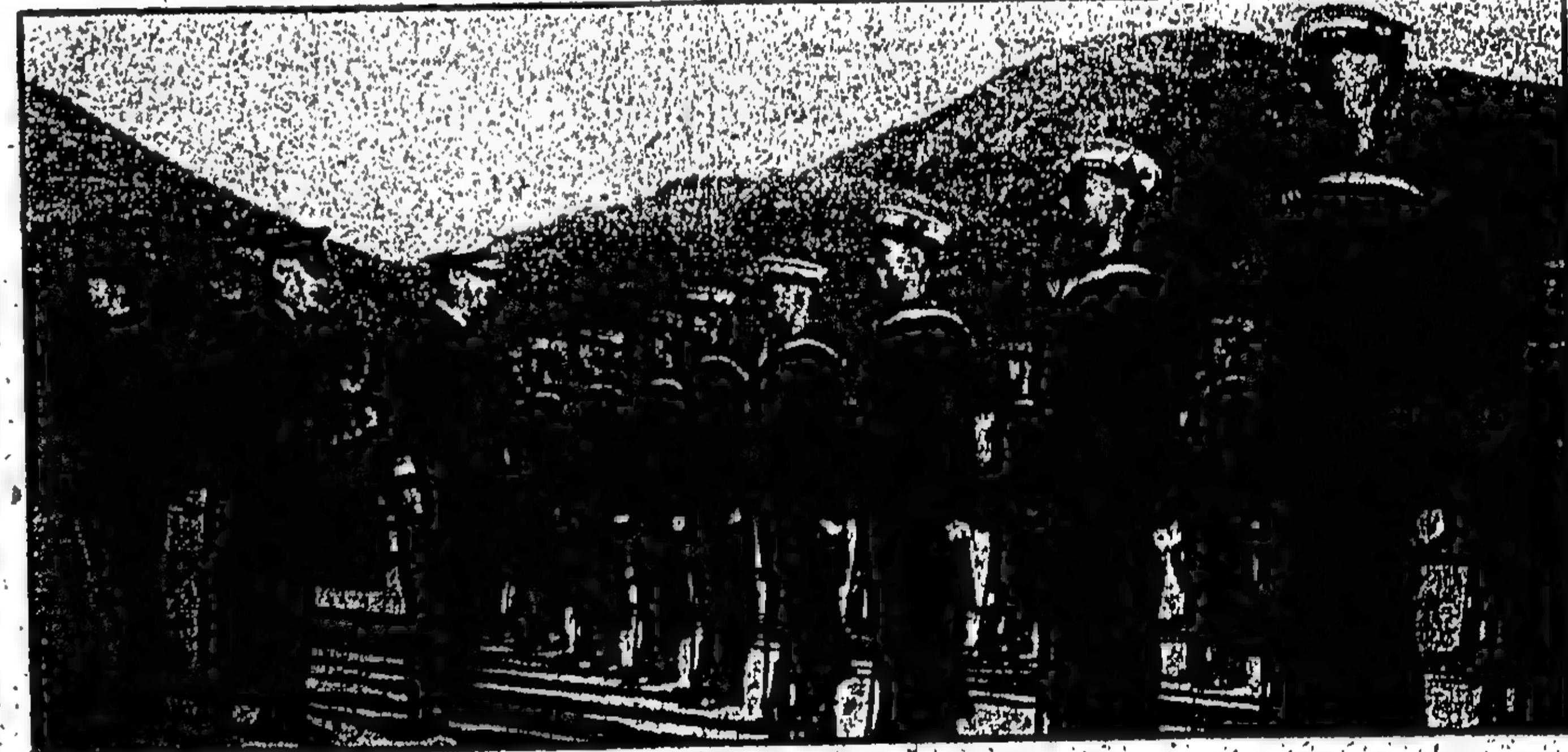
MARY ANNE,  
daughter of Mr and  
Mrs F. A. Stanislaw,  
celebrating her  
second birthday with  
some of her friends.  
(Starlite Films)



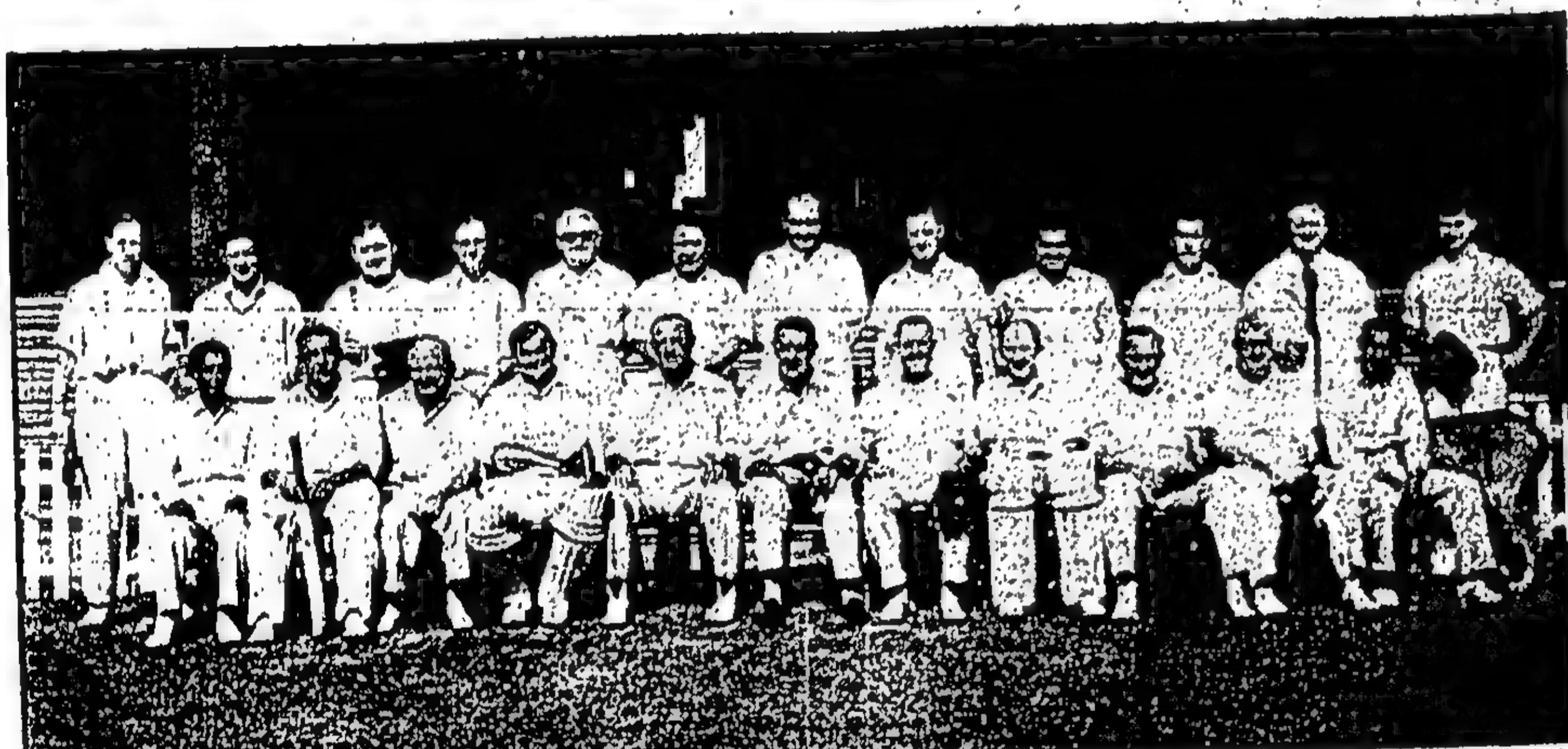
LEFT: Mrs T. E. Pearce leading in *C'est Si Bon* after it had won the Middle Spur Plate at Happy Valley last Saturday. The jockey is Mr Robert Tsai. (Staff Photographer)



MR and Mrs Cheung Chan-hon and their son, Stewart. Picture taken at the cocktail and dinner party given at the Kam Ling Restaurant on the occasion of the baby's christening. (Staff Photographer)



**R I G H T:** Prewar Hongkongites and Old Shanghailanders, who met in a friendly game of cricket last Sunday. The local old timers won. (Staff Photographer)



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AT the opening of the 10th Hongkong International Salon of Photography, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, Patron of the Photographic Society of Hongkong, places the chain of office on Mr Francis Wu, the Society's President. Over 200 superb prints from 25 countries are on view. (Staff Photographer)



ABOVE and at left, are some of those who attended the Jaycees' 11th anniversary party at the Miramar Hotel. From left, above: Mr J. G. O'Donnell, Mrs A. de O. Salas, Mr Francis J. Chan, President of the Hongkong Junior Chamber of Commerce, Mr Chen and Mr H. Brunger. (Staff Photographer)



MR Alfred Hitchcock, internationally famous film director, entertained by local theatre operators at the Princess Garden Restaurant. He is being presented with a set of ivory chopsticks and other gifts.



BELOW: Serviceman's Guides Volunteers' benefit held at the Ladies' Recreation Club in aid of the welcome centre at Fanwick Pier. Lady Grantham presenting first prize for bridge to Mrs Russell Noalo. And on the right, Mrs F. S. Coote receives first prize for canasta. (Staff Photographer)



BELOW: Mr F. C. Clemo, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts Association, inspecting Brownies at the Salvation Army youth inspection parade in Kowloon last Sunday. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides were also on parade. (Staff Photographer)



AT the annual speech day of St Mary's School, Kowloon. Certificates being distributed by Mrs Anne Crozier, wife of the Director of Education. (Staff Photographer)



AT the Kowloon Y's Men's Club Installation ceremony on Wednesday. Mr L. E. Noren, the Club President, receives the gavel from Mr Lam Chik-suen, the International Director. (Staff Photographer)



LEFT: Magnificent costuming distinguishing the enactments by local ladies of 12 famous Chinese beauties of history at the charity ball in aid of the Juvenile Care Centre. Here is Miss Lily Tong as Hung Fat Nui, celebrated heroine of the later Sui and early Tang dynasties. (Staff Photographer)

FRIENDS of Mr and Mrs Robert Ames at the cocktail party which they gave to welcome their parents from California. The party was held at their residence at Repulse Bay. (Willie's)

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RIGHT: Students of Wah Yan College, Kowloon, who took part in the production of "Trial By Jury," by Gilbert and Sullivan, at the Hongkong Teachers' Association social evening. (Staff Photographer)

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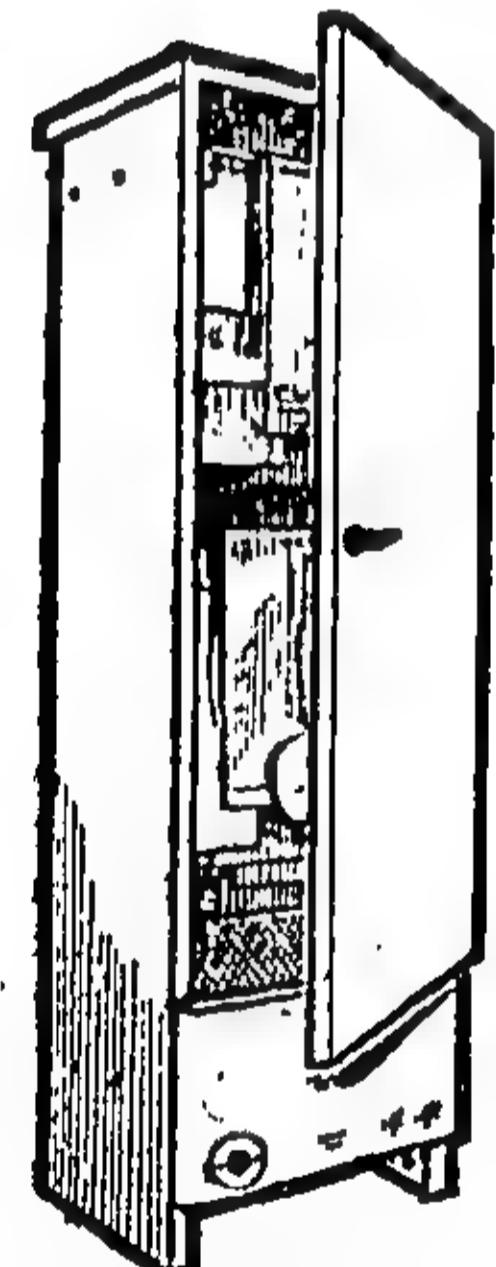


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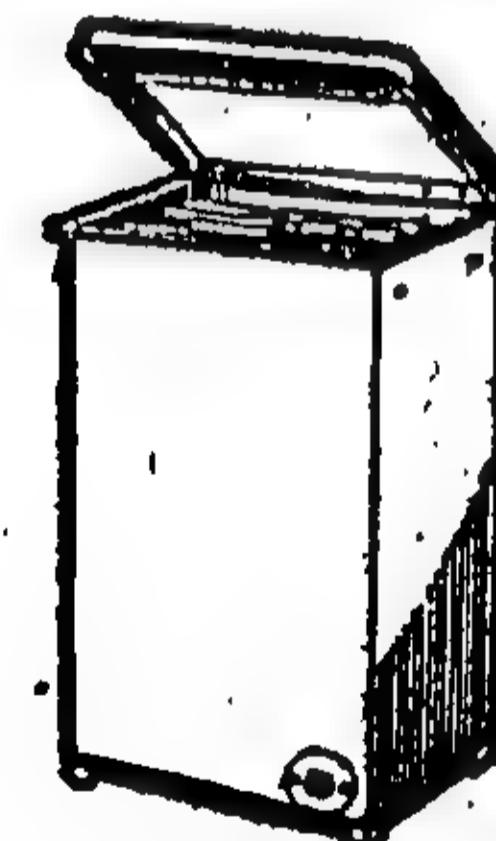
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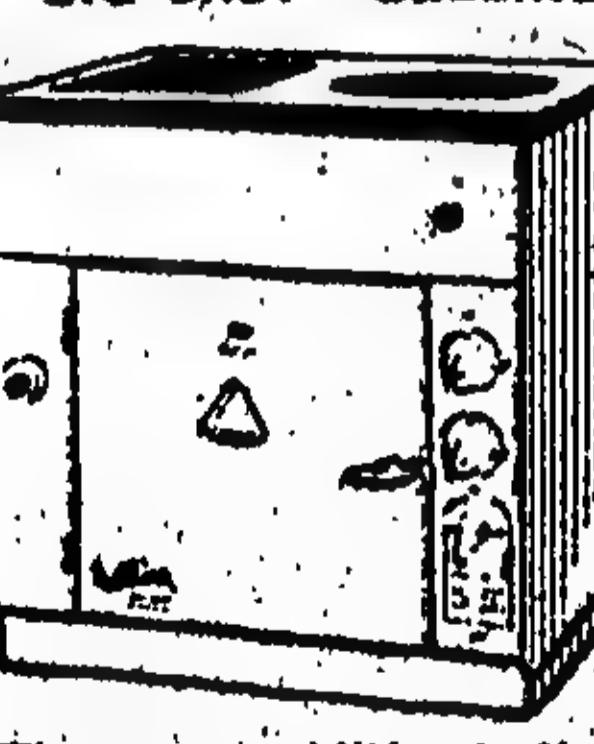
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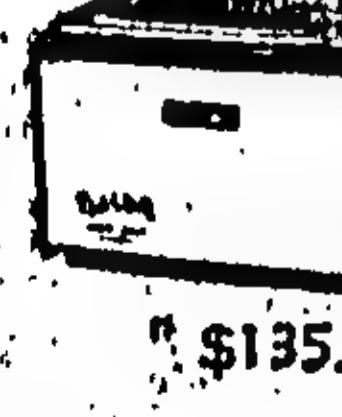
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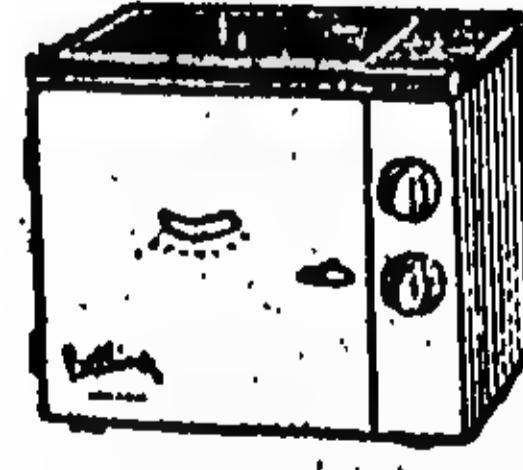
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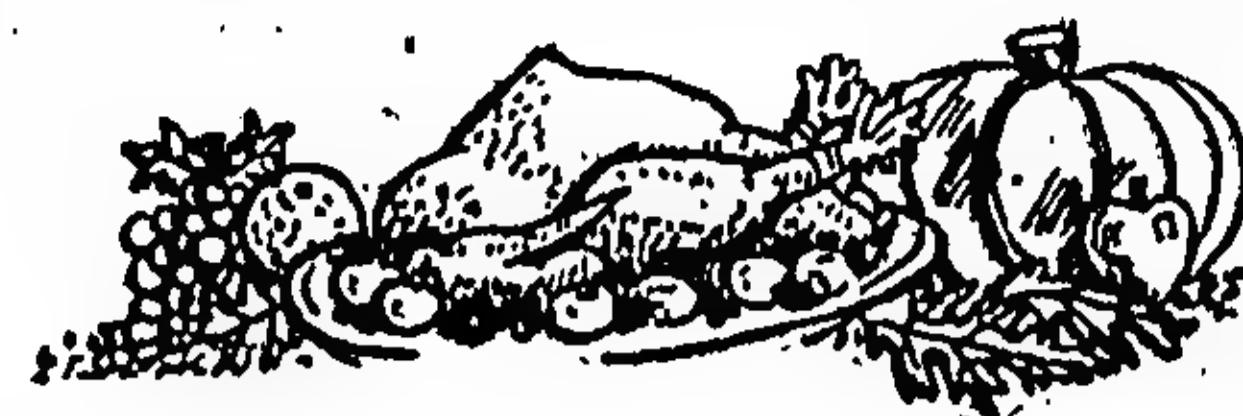
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# CHRISTMAS AT HOME

## International Holiday Fare

By CYNTHIA ROBB



WANT a change in your Christmas fare? Then come on a dinner table tour round the Continent to see what's good.

Turkey? Most countries have it. Lots of other things, too. This is how they're made:

### AUSTRIA

**STUFFED PAPRIKAS WITH EGG:**

6 or 8 large green or red sweet peppers, 1 cupful or rice, 1 onion, 2 or 3 tomatoes, ½ pint sour cream, goose dripping, stock or water, salt.

Cut the top off the paprikas and remove the seeds. Cut one or two of them into strips. Cool in hot goose dripping with the chopped onion, the peeled tomatoes and the rice, which should be moistened with a little water or stock. Cook till the rice is soft, mix in the sour cream and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring well. Stuff the paprikas with the mixture and serve with rice.

### CARDINAL:

Rub about 1 lb. of lump sugar well with orange skin and put in a bowl with the juice of 2 oranges, a cupful of pineapple juice, a bottle of white wine, and half a bottle of champagne. Ice and serve cold.

### GERMANY

**STUFFED GOOSE'S NECK:**

Remove the fat from the inside of the goose's neck without piercing the skin and stuff the neck with: one finely chopped goose liver, ½ lb. of uncooked pork breadcrumbs, 1 egg, salt and pepper, all well mixed together. Sew each end of the neck up and fry in goose fat to a light brown colour. Serve cold, cut in slices.

### HUNGARY

**PORKOLT CHICKEN:**

1 chicken, jointed; 2 or 3 tablespoons of tomato puree, 1 or 2 large onions, 2 or 3 pimientos, 1 tablespoon of paprika, salt and a little water.

Sprinkle the joints of chicken with salt and let stand for 2 or 3 hours. Fry the chopped onion in a little lard and, when slightly browned, mixed in the tomato puree and season with salt and paprika. Put in the chicken, brown, add a little water, and simmer till the chicken is tender. Garnish with sliced and previously cooked pimientos.

### NORWAY

**CHRISTMAS CAKE:**

A rich fruit bread — without which no table is complete at Christmas.

¾ cup sugar, ¼ lb. softened butter, 2 whole eggs, 2 egg yolks, 1 tablespoon ground cardamom, 2 ounces yeast, 1 cup lukewarm milk, 1 pound sifted flour, 1 cup chopped citron, 1 cup seedless raisins.

Beat sugar and butter in large bowl, until well blended.

Beat eggs and cardamom and add to the sugar and butter.

Hot Punch Bowl next, to serve 10 to 12.

Mix in large saucepan, and let simmer for 10 min., 1 gallon sweet cider, 1½ lb. brown sugar, 6-in. stick cinnamon, ¼ tsp. salt, one blade mace, thsp. each whole cloves, whole allspice, 2 thsp. crystallized ginger.

Combine 3 2-inch sticks cinnamon, 2 tsp. whole cloves, 1 tsp. allspice, 4 pieces mace, 1½ c. water and 1 tsp. grated lemon rind in a saucepan. Boil 10 min.

Remove from fire and strain. Measure one c. of this spice infusion and add to 3 c. apricot nectar, few grains salt, 1 tsp. lemon juice and 2 thsp. granulated sugar, mixing well.

Hot Spiced Nectar Punch is a good choice, the recipe to serve 4 to 6.

Combine 3 2-inch sticks cinnamon, 2 tsp. whole cloves, 1 tsp. allspice, 4 pieces mace, 1½ c. water and 1 tsp. grated lemon rind in a saucepan. Boil 10 min.

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Hot Spiced Nectar Punch is a good choice, the recipe to serve 4 to 6.

Combine 3 2-inch sticks cinnamon, 2 tsp. whole cloves, 1 tsp. allspice, 4 pieces mace, 1½ c. water and 1 tsp. grated lemon rind in a saucepan. Boil 10 min.

Remove from fire and strain. Measure one c. of this spice infusion and add to 3 c. apricot nectar, few grains salt, 1 tsp. lemon juice and 2 thsp. granulated sugar, mixing well.

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Hot Spiced Nectar Punch is a good choice, the recipe to serve 4 to 6.

Combine 3 2-inch sticks cinnamon, 2 tsp. whole cloves, 1 tsp. allspice, 4 pieces mace



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## CHRISTMAS EVE

Cala Dinner Dances till 2 a.m.  
PENINSULA HOTEL, 1st floor.  
REPULSE BAY HOTEL

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Special Tea Dance 4.30 p.m.—6.30 p.m.  
REPULSE BAY HOTEL

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

Cala Dinner Dances till 2 a.m.  
PENINSULA HOTEL, 1st floor.  
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## NEW YEAR'S DAY

Special Tea Dance 4.30 p.m.—6.30 p.m.  
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# A CHRISTMAS STORY

# THE SEASONABLE GIFT

By JOHN PUDNEY

FROM beneath the holly-garlanded antlers of the deserted club house, Blinch gazed out at December mist. Blinch was not an active bore. He was a man lost in a world obsessed with such things as economics, social services and domestic festivity. He had never been the cause of any event. He remained passively uneventfully, passively a bore. A golf bore at that.

His lonely fingers drummed the glass. His solitary mind played over the sixteenth hole, rehearsing the story he might tell about it if some blessed chance sent him an audience. The only sound in the humid void of Doverley Park Golf Club that Christmas Eve; however, was the clock acquainting Blinch with the impossibility of playing a round before the light went.

He raised his eyes wistfully towards the near-distant coquetry of the flag on the first green. Then a thousand moods of surprise pricked his being. Andrew Beltane, the Club Professional, was out there giving a lesson. A lesson on Christmas Eve?

"But," cried Blinch, "I couldn't for the life of me see any pupil."

The scowl of Andrew Beltane, close to, was in a strange way benign. "Then perhaps you haven't yet the gift of really seeing, Mr. Blinch. A gift of the gods, that is, for such a one as yourself..."

Binch could imagine every word of his discourse, talking the pupil momentarily — so momentarily — into a conviction that he could play golf with the gods. But where was the pupil? Sure as he might, Blinch could only see the squat fury figure of Andrew in all the wide green invitation of the course. Blinch so far forgot himself as to come out on the verandah to wave and even to whistle.

Andrew Beltane glanced up, and even at that distance his scowl conveyed a message of awesome disapproval of the interruption. Then talking, pointing out features of the course, pausing from time to time to demonstrate a swing, he walked solitarily out of sight round a bluff.

Binch stepped back into the club house. There were no witnesses. None but the garlanded amlers to whom he could appeal to substantiate what he had seen. Had he seen it? Blinch regarded himself as a sensible man, moderate in his tastes, temperate in his habits. His pursuit of happiness, day by day, at Doverley Park was, he believed, a healthy quest.

His imagination, he hoped, never got the better of his judgment. He exercised it reasonably in describing to fellow-members the ups and downs of games he had played. He never let it overstep the mark. He was angry because anger was the only weapon with which he could combat the inexplicable.

Either his eyes had deceived him or Andrew Beltane, that oracular dwarf, that custodian of ethics, that ultimate judge of human performance, had gone off his head.

SHOULD he call on the Secretary, or telephone the Chairman of the Committee, or perhaps warn the Steward? Skilled though he was in the well-founded complaint, the nicely-timed protest, by which his name had become dreaded by all these officials, Blinch was at a loss. Suppose Andrew was snug in the professional's shop, brewing his dark brown tea, conning a new wooden club?

Binch had always taken a firm line on visionaries. He pulled himself together, thought of an excuse about a new strap for his bag, and hastened through the shrubberies. Andrew Beltane was not in his den. That settled it. Blinch gratefully put behind him all thoughts of magic, and resurfaced, bumbling loudly — until he met Beltane outside the club house.

"Ah," he said, looking down upon the little figure in the antlered antlers, "of this you are undoubtedly a expert. I was just a passenger on a boat."

"Is it likely you'll be needing it this side of Christmas, Mr. Blinch?"

"No, unfortunately not. Though I thought I saw you giving a lesson, Andrew out there in the mist?"

"That was business, not pleasure, Mr. Blinch. If a very keen gentleman insists upon having himself instructed on a day like this, and will pay the price for it..."

Then his words began to fall patiently, like rain.

They played off together on Christmas Day. They played, both of them, steady games. They were well matched. Blinch talked and the stranger listened. Blinch found that his eyes were all right. Indeed they served him so well that he was soon able to catch up with his happiness. And how his putting improved! He always referred to it afterwards not as Christmas Day but as the day his putting improved.

The stranger, it seemed, would be staying in the neighbourhood for some time. Blinch felt that it would be impolite to tax him for details of his visit, and the stranger volunteered none. Blinch suggested that they might sit around, later on when they came in, and have a good chat. The stranger agreed so readily that Blinch, as they sauntered through the mist, treated him to the story of his win in the 1939 Competition.

It was while he was in the middle of this that one of the members who had come in for a Christmas drink, went to borrow the Secretary's field-glasses.

"Something most odd about Blinch. Come and have a look."

The field-glasses passed from hand to hand. There was no doubt about it. Blinch was telling one of his better-known stories. He was also facing up to his ball with a deliberation reserved for opponents he respected. Yet he was, without a shadow of a doubt, alone.

"I can tell from here that it's that story, about his win in the 1939 Competition."

"Even without the glasses, I can see that Blinch is making a very keen game of it. He never plays like that unless he is happy."

Andrew Beltane, wheeling his bike across the gravel below, paused and regarded the distant figure of Blinch with satisfaction. "He's doing fine," he murmured, half to the private audience of his thoughts, half to the occupants of the verandah. "I reckon that's the perfect gift..."

But he rode off before anyone could challenge his cryptic comment.

Nobody spoke as Blinch approached voluble with an anecdote, after sinking a long putt with masterly skill on the last green. They stood aside to let him through into the club house. They nodded their embarrassment to his cheery "Merry Christmas, people. A splendid round!"

They failed in their routine hilarity after that. From time to time, one of them would tiptoe towards Blinch's special corner, behind the screen where he was wont to herd his victims. Each time the report came back that Blinch was still talking.

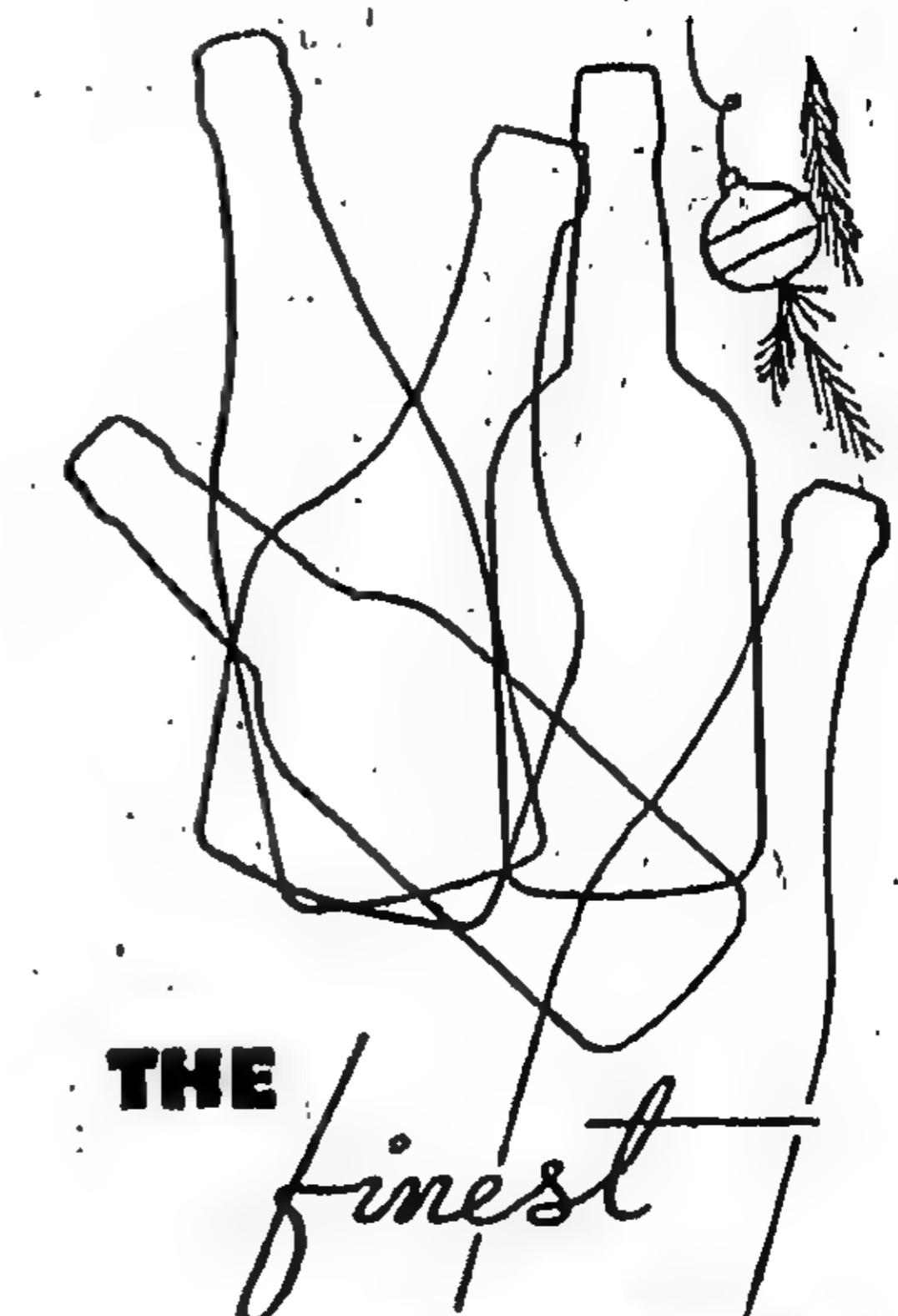
In the New Year, the Committee passed a resolution which, alas for the students of golf history, was considered to be too eccentric to be recorded in the minutes. The gist of it was that Blinch's new friend was elected an Honorary Member of Doverley Park Golf Club.

It was an inspired decision, applauded to this day. Nearly every afternoon, Blinch meets his friend for a game. Nearly every evening, he moves into his corner beside the empty chair. He is hidden by the screen which the Committee, for the greater comfort of the Honorary Member, "caused to be drawn more discreetly across the corner than it had been formerly."

The arrangement is the only remarkable feature of Doverley Park. To visitors, the solitary figure of Blinch is pointed out as a natural hazard. Already many of the members have almost forgotten his prodigious achievements as a bore.

And last Blinch's gift should fail or failer, that coming odd troll Andrew Beltane occasionally gives a brief lesson in front of the club house window to the Doverley Member. The little man charges nothing. Trolls never do.

(CONTINUED)



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Tai Shing Watch Co., 184, Des Voeux Road.  
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THE LAROCHE SNUFFERS

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# CHRISTMAS EVE DONKEY A Gift You Can Make

Even very young children know the little gray donkey that was present on the manger scene on Christmas Eve. This engaging gray felt donkey, cheap, easy and quick to make yourself, is a delightful Christmas toy present.

MATERIALS:

1 piece of grey Felt, 9 in. x 12 in.

Scrap of red and black Felt.

Kapok.

1 skein Clark's "Anchor" Soft Embroidery Thread in black.

Small amount of Clark's "Anchor" Stranded Cotton in black and white.

1 reel Coats Satinized No. 40 to match each Felt.

PATTERNS:

Make these from diagram 1 sq. — 1 in.

SEWING DIRECTIONS:

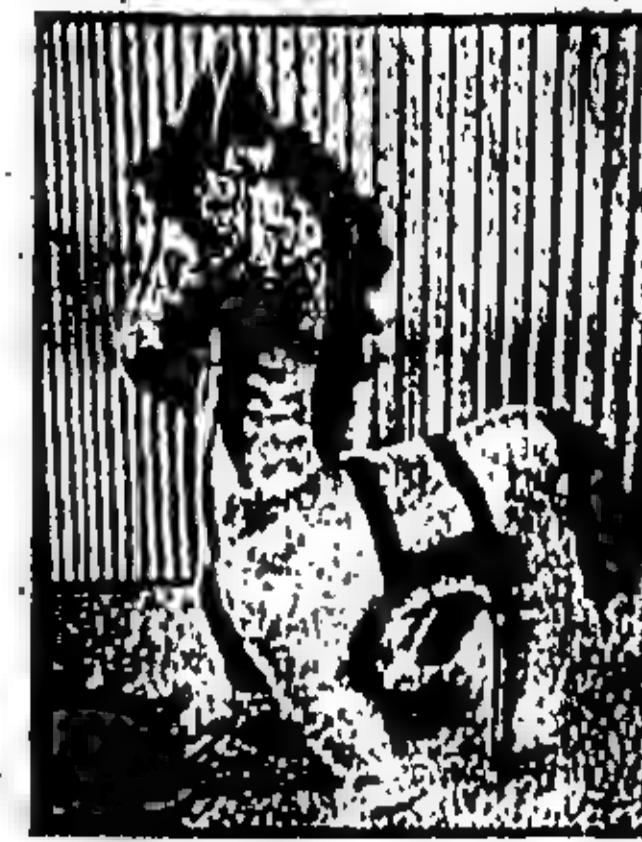
1. Embroider the nostrils and eyeballs with satin stitch using black stranded cotton. Embroider the eyes with white stem stitch and mouth with black stem stitch.
2. Lay the two underbody sections together, edges even and stab stitch along the straight edge.
3. Lay the two body sections together edges even and stab stitch edges from

approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. loops. Cut loops and trim neatly.

7. Make a small tuck at rounded end of each ear and sew in position.

8. Lay red saddle on to the black saddle, centres matching and slip stitch in position.

9. Place saddle over the donkey's back (as in photograph) and slip stitch in position.



## BEST STORIES OF THE YEAR

QUESTION—to China Mail writers: What was the best funny story you heard this year?

protests, "really, please let me do this, it is my turn. You paid for lunch."

\* \* \*

ANSWERS below.

THE best 1955 Sam Goldwyn story came from Wardour Street.

ADVERTISING executive who has, at great expense, purchased one minute on commercial TV: "Quick, darling, my commercial is just coming on."

To which his wife replies: "Just a minute, darling."

\* \* \*

Americans are laughing at the Psychiatrist Story of 1955. A leopard went to his psychiatrist and complained: "Every time I look at the wife I see spots before my eyes."

The psychiatrist gave him a quizzical look: "Well—you're a leopard, aren't you?" "Sure, sure, I know," said the leopard—but I married a zebra."

\* \* \*

Goldwyn was making a film with the working title "Woman Chases Man" and was running into difficulties with the script. He went to a top agent and said: "Who is the best writer you have available?"

The agent, flipping through a list, said: "Eddie Shotoff" is free—excellent man. Oscar winner and all that." Goldwyn brought Shotoff from New York to Hollywood, gave him a three-hour dinner, talked about the script and, at the end, Shotoff said: "No, I can't do it—the story is awful."

Goldwyn said: "Nonsense—sit down again." Three hours later, Shotoff got up and said: "Nothing can make this story any better. I won't do it at all—at any price," and returned to New York.

A year later the film was shown. It was a failure. The year after that Goldwyn began work on a new film and wanted a scriptwriter.

Eddie Shotoff was suggested. Goldwyn hesitated, then said: "Shotoff, Shotoff—that name is familiar. I've heard it before." Long pause, then violently: "How dare you suggest I use Shotoff again? He was associated with one of my worst failures."

\* \* \*

GERMANS have started laughing about their new Wehrmacht. A sample joke which is going the rounds:

A recruit presents himself to Defence Minister Blank and offers his services.

"How about the infantry?"

says Blank. "Not on your life,"

says the recruit. "No jackboot marching for me."

"How about the Luftwaffe?"

says Blank. "Flying's too dangerous," says the recruit.

"Nothing left but the navy, then," says Blank. "Can you swim, young man?"

"What do you mean, swim?"

says the recruit. "Aren't they going to give us any ships?"

\* \* \*

TARGET for France's 1955 jokes is an imaginary nouveau-riche lovely-but-vapid girl called Marie-Chantal and her family.

Marie-Chantal and her father, the baron, and her uncle, the count, are strolling past the huge glittering showrooms of an American car firm on the Champs Elysées when Marie-Chantal, pointing and hissing, says: "I think I'd like to take that one home this afternoon."

Her father walks in and asks:

"How much, cash down?"

The uncle, the count, butches forward. "No, no, indeed," he

turns to spout.

\* \* \*

Finally, the best 1955 advice to the after-dinner storyteller: "The whale is never harpooned until it gets up

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for every  
pocket  
and  
person...

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...your own or  
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finished and precision-  
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Fire bucket? Nylon  
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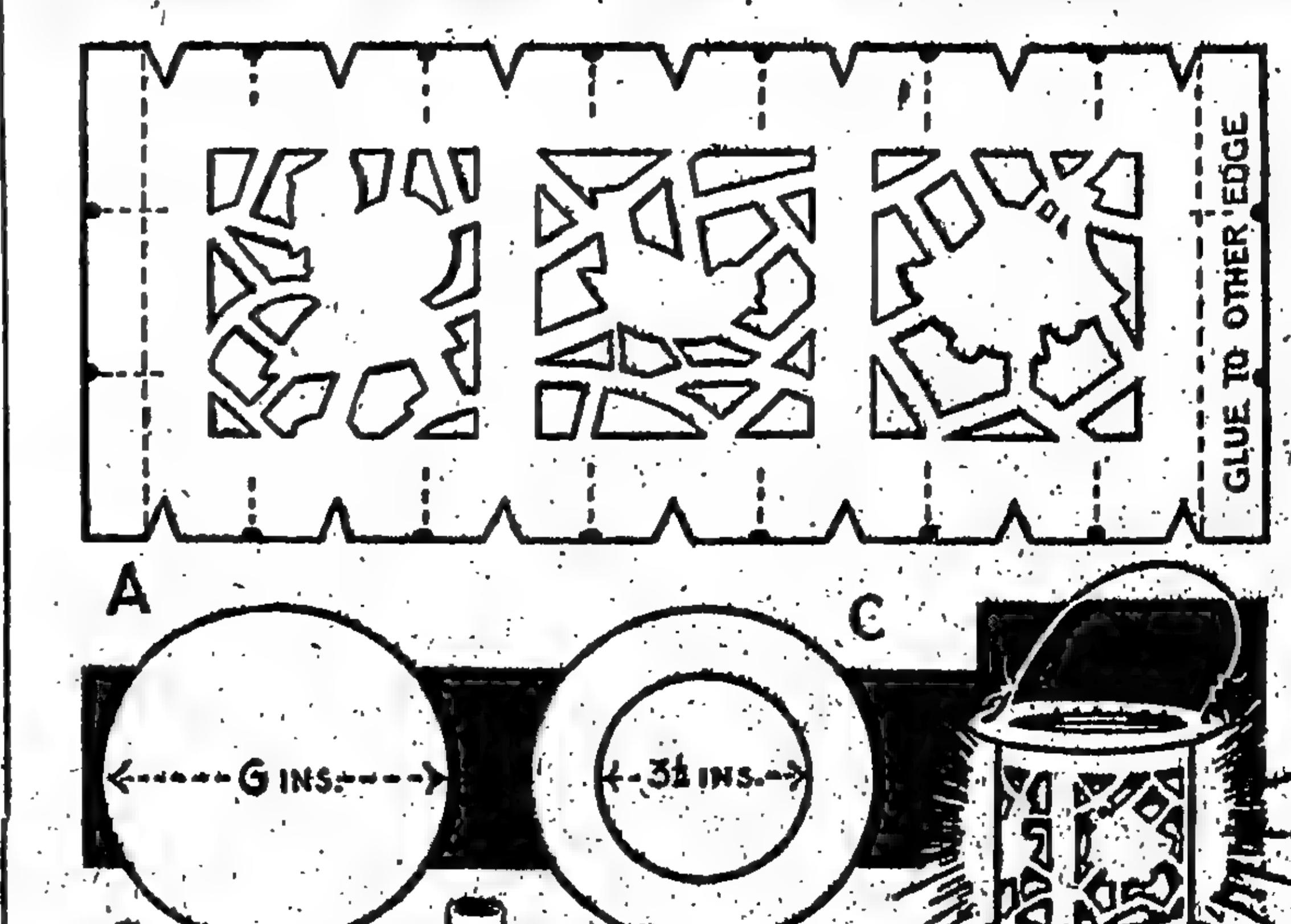
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Chow Lai, 10th Floor, 100, Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Tel. 88200;



To make each lantern, you will need some lightweight card, gold metallic paper and glue.

Here, the lantern design is shown in miniature. You will need to draw it much larger. But it is quite easy to do that. Just follow these instructions carefully.

First of all, rule lines joining the dots on the diagram. Then, hide a piece of metallic paper, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., to a size of card the same size. Copy the design, square by square, on to the card.

Cut out the window pieces through which the light is going to shine, and cut

notches in the top and bottom margins of the card, as shown. Roll the card into a cylinder shape, with the metallic paper on the outside, and bend the notched pieces outwards. Glue the two edges of the card together.

Two circles of card, each six inches in diameter, form the base and top sections of the lantern. A circle 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. across is cut from the top section, as shown in C, so that you are left with a ring of card. Cover these parts with metallic paper, and cut a Christmas candle-holder to the centre of the base.

Now, you can glue the cylinder to the top, the base to the bottom, and your lantern is complete. You can make many numbers of lanterns from the same card.

## Your Radio Listening For Next Week In Detail—A "China Mail" Feature

A Festive Air—On The Air  
Carol Concert,  
Nativity Play

With Christmas only a week away, Radio Hongkong programmes are already beginning to wear a festive air— even "Radio Crossword" at nine tomorrow wears a sprig of holly in its button-hole!

Earlier in the evening, there'll be a comedy for Christmas by J. B. Boothroyd, "The Orange in the Toe". Starring Googie Withers and Jack Hawkins, the story concerns a family who, tired of the forced jollity and expense of a traditional Christmas, decide instead to have an ordinary quiet week-end.

But the seasonal atmosphere proves too strong for them, and each member of the family, unknown to the others, secretly prepares something for a genuine Christmas. The result of these preparations is only apparent on the day itself, when the family find—with relief—that Christmas is happier and merrier than ever before. "The Orange in the Toe" was produced for the BBC by Charles Parker.

Then there is a Christmas edition of "Take It From Here" on Friday, in which the tables are turned on Edwards, when the explosive present he purchased for Bentley goes off in his car. Alma Cogan, as usual, provides the liquid notes, and the programme abounds with Christmas cheer.

Other programmes with a Yuletide flavour are "Sleigh Ride"—a journey into melody for the festive season—with Robert Farren and his Orchestra at lunchtime on Tuesday and for those who enjoy the quieter moments of Christmas, "Music by Candlelight" offers half an hour of gentle, soothing music uninterrupted by announcements, played by the Leighton Lucas orchestra, on Friday evening. The local orchestral contribution is provided by the Hongkong Concert Orchestra, whose Christmas Concert at the Ritz tomorrow evening is being recorded, and the first half can be heard by listeners to Radio Hongkong on Wednesday evening at half past eight.

## "THIS WEEK"

There arrived in the Colony this week a new cultural attache for the United States Information Services. Wilfred Read, who has been both press agent to a Hollywood film studio, and manager of the National Symphony Orchestra, is interviewed by David Lyttle.

Also in the programme, "This Week," which will be on the air at eight o'clock this evening, listeners may hear one of the BBC's most popular children's broadcasters, H. E. Todd, describing how he combines a useful hobby with his normal work as a businessman.

A new CID course has begun this week at the Police Training School, Aberdeen, and Timothy Birch went out to interview some of the officers connected with training.

Listeners may remember Patricia Penn's work for Radio Hongkong before she left to become a studio manager at the BBC. This week she sent us a short despatch with a few pungent comments on the spirit of Christmas in West End shopping circles.

## "MUSIC MAGAZINE"

In tomorrow's edition of "Music Magazine" at 12.15, the distinguished violinist, Munro Clark, will be interviewed by Peter Sharp. In addition, the Rev. Father T. F. Ryan, S. J., talks about Classical Christmas Music, and Eric O'Neill Shaw discusses Modern Carols. "Music Magazine" is compiled and produced by Peter Sharp.

## MORIA SHEAKER

The triumphs of Maira Shearer, the Scottish girl who became a star of the Sadlers Wells Ballet at Covent Garden, have not been confined to the single medium of ballet. She became world famous in the film "The Red Shoes", when she proved herself beyond question to be an artist who could make the best of two worlds: Ballet and Theatre.

On Thursday evening at nine o'clock, Radio Hongkong is broadcasting a radio portrait of this enchanting young artist. "Maira Shearer" was written by Gale Fredrick and produced by Thurnton Holland for the BBC.

## "POPULARITY POLL"

The many listeners to Radio Hongkong's weekly hit parade

## A MELANCHRINO CONCERT.

6.00 TIME SIGNAL AND PROGRAMME SUMMARY.

6.01 STUDIO: UNIT REQUESTS PRESENTED BY LINDA PISTON, W.H.A.C.

## WEATHER REPORT.

7.00 TIME SIGNAL AND THE NEWS (LONDON RELAY).

7.05 COMMENTARY (LONDON RELAY) OR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## THE HARMONY FIVE (RECORDED).

An Army Quintet from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Regiment.

7.10 STUDIO: "I'LL BE BOX PARADE," PRESENTED BY NICK RENDALL.

## "THREE WEEKS."

News reports and interviews on some of the week's events in and out of Hongkong. Compiled by Timothy Birch.

## CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT.

Mariah and Miranda.

## TIME SIGNAL SPORTS CAVALCADE.

Edited by Brig. Young.

Produced by John Wallace.

## HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR.

With Tony Hancock, Maira Lister, Bill Kerr, Sidney James.

## MUSIC FROM THE CHAM-PAGNE ROOM.

Played by Ray De Val and The Bubbles.

## SATURDAY STORY.

"The Secret" by A. Dodd. Read by Linda Roberts.

## RADIO DANCE DATE.

You do something to me—Tommy Dorsey and his Orch. I'm dancing again in my dreams—Tommy Flanagan and his Orch. Harry Price (vocal); Blue, turning grey over—Gene Krupa and his Orch. Yesterday—Freddy Martin and his Big Band—Freddy Martin and his Orch. Me, truly, truly Fair—Vic Damone (vocal) with George Weinman's Orch. The Teen-Age's Walk—Eddy Howard and his Orch. I'm home again—Domingo and his Friend—Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians with Kenny Gardner (vocal); Distancia—Roberto Ingles and his Orch. The Day—The Day—George Light—Doris Day (vocal); Wake the town and tell the people—Herbie Layne Orch. with vocal chorus; Twilight in Rio—The Silver Strings—The Silver Strings; Bolivian—Victor Silvester and the Silver Strings; Three O'clock in the morning—Victor Silvester and the Ballroom Orch.

## WEATHER REPORT.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

## CLOSE DOWN.

## Sunday

## BBC Overseas Shortwave Programmes

(6.30 p.m. to 12.15 a.m. on 21.530 Mc/s, 18.93m and on 17.810 Mc/s, 16.84m)

## SATURDAY, DEC. 17

6.30 p.m. HANCOCK'S HALF-HOUR.

7.00 THE NEWS.

7.05 COMMENTARY.

7.10 SPORTS ROUND-UP.

Report from the West Country.

7.15 FORCES' FAVOURITES.

7.20 THE BEEBIES.

7.25 WE INVITE YOU TO A DATE WITH JULIE.

7.30 SCOTTISH MAGAZINE.

7.35 THE NEWS.

7.40 HOME NEWS FROM BRITAIN.

7.45 BIG BEN RADIO NEWSWHEEL.

7.50 PROGRAMME SUMMARY.

7.55 "LIFE WITH THE LYONS."

7.58 THE LYONS' RECORD.

7.59 RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL.

7.60 GREAT BRITAIN V. NEW ZEALAND.

A commentary on the Third Test match at Headingley.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 18

6.30 p.m. A SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

From St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Wycombe, conducted by the Reverend Father W. Bainbridge.

7.00 THE NEWS.

7.05 SPORTS ROUND-UP.

7.10 EDUCATING ARCHIE.

7.15 SCRAPBOOK FOR 1954.

7.20 THE NEWS.

7.25 HOME NEWS FROM BRITAIN.

7.30 BIG BEN RADIO NEWSWHEEL.

7.35 PROGRAMME SUMMARY.

7.40 CONCERTO.

Piano Concerto No. 23 in A (K.488).

7.45 HANCOCK'S HALF-HOUR.

7.50 ACCORDION.

15 minutes of bright music, played by Martin Lukas.

## MONDAY, DEC. 19

6.30 BEBE DANIELS AND BEN LYON IN "LIVE WITH THE LYONS."

7.00 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

FAF. v. Sing Tao.

Commentary from Club Ground.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 20

6.30 p.m. COMMONWEALTH CLUB.

7.00 THE NEWS.

7.05 COMMENTARY.

7.10 SPORTS ROUND-UP.

7.15 FIVE MINUTES FOR FARMERS.

7.20 FORCES' FAVOURITES.

7.25 THE BEEBIES.

7.30 A CHRISTMAS COMMISSION.

An allegorical play in verse by Maxwell Knight.

7.45 THIS DAY AND AGE.

"Winter's Garment".

A feature programme dealing with the problems of old age.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 23

6.30 p.m. THE AL READ CHRISTMAS.

7.00 THE NEWS.

7.05 COMMENTARY.

7.10 SPORTS ROUND-UP.

7.15 REPORT FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.

7.20 HOME NEWS FROM BRITAIN.

7.25 BIG BEN RADIO NEWSWHEEL.

7.30 PROGRAMME SUMMARY.

7.35 THE MUSIC OF FITZCH.

By Andrew Porter. "Double Anniversary: Casals and Tertis" by John Warwick.

7.40 THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

2-Relationship. The last talk in the series by A. P. Ryan.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

6.30 DANCE MUSIC.

7.00 THE NEWS.

7.05 COMMENTARY.

7.10 SPORTS ROUND-UP.

7.15 REPORT FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.

7.20 HOME NEWS FROM BRITAIN.

7.25 BIG BEN RADIO NEWSWHEEL.

7.30 PROGRAMME SUMMARY.

7.35 THE MUSIC OF FITZCH.

By Andrew Porter. "Double Anniversary: Casals and Tertis" by John Warwick.

7.40 THE LYONS' RECORD.

15 minutes of bright music, played by Martin Lukas.

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15 minutes of bright music, played by Martin Lukas.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

6.30 DANCE



**POCKET CARTOON**  
By OSBERT LANCASTER  
STUDIO 2  
SILENCE

**IN SEARCH OF DIAGHILEV.**  
By Richard Buckle. Sidgwick and Jackson. 30s. 128 pages.

# The Jealous Impresario Hired Six Detectives

GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON  
reviews the NEW BOOKS

**A** FEW years before Serge Diaghilev set out to conquer Europe he organised in St Petersburg, in the palace where Potemkin had once entertained his mistress Catherine the Great, a huge exhibition of historic Russian portraits. Three

thousand canvases, drawn from every province of the Empire, hung on the walls. At the banquet which celebrated this achievement, Diaghilev, the young dilettante, conceded and unpopular, made a speech which reached the level of prophetic utterance.

He told the assembled nobility that the pictures summed up a brilliant but dead period: "I realise this not only when I look at the splendid portraits of these ancestors but even more when I observe their moribund descendants. A period of history is dying. We ourselves shall give birth to a new civilisation which in turn will sweep us away."

## A WANDERER

The new civilisation which Diaghilev had heralded came to birth while he was a wanderer on the face of war-torn Europe, the impresario of a nomadic troupe of dancers which had once been the Imperial Russian Ballet. The birth-pangs he had foreseen cut him off from his source of inspiration in the Old Russia. He arrived in this West as a pioneer; he died in Venice as a refugee.

But he and his ballet had not lived and wandered in vain. His true heir is to be found at Sadler's Wells.

In searching for relics of this strange man, Richard Buckle met many elderly survivors of a glamorous artistic adventure. He came upon them in Paris, in dusty over-crowded flats; on the Riviera; in London; in "that unexplored territory north of Holland Park."

## TREASURES

Some of them, including Picasso, promised to lend their treasures and they did not; others had kept nothing from the past; George Balanchine had only a few pornographic drawings done for Diaghilev, which were hardly suitable for Buckle's purpose.

But while he sought relics he also gathered memories—almost enough to make a composite portrait of Diaghilev. "Almost"

because something about this man remains enigmatic. Many of his old associates did not seem to regret him. He had been a hypnotist, a magician; they were relieved that his spell was broken.

## A SHOWMAN

Diaghilev, born in a Russian barracks, son of an officer of the Imperial Guard, was a showman, with an organising genius and fanatical will-power.

He became a one-man Arts Council, spending other people's money to produce works of art

stripped and flung naked into the favourite's room." Massine was dismissed and forbidden the theatre—and Diaghilev retired to bed, where he remained for weeks.

The object of Buckle's quest, the subject of his racy if rambling book, was after all, an immensely cultivated barbarian, a boy in a sealskin collar and a monocle. Product of a dying period of history, he was a Tsar in a ferocious tradition.

## CHILDREN OF THE GAME.

By Jean Cocteau. Harvill. 12s. 6d. 179 pages.

**J**EAN COCTEAU, with quizzical expression, mop of well-waved silver hair, and bony, vivacious hands, is, at 65, one of the French adolescent poets who writes his own books.

He was born at Maisons-Laffite where rich French sportsmen breed racehorses. Cocteau's father was a rich French lawyer.

He became known as a poet at 16; since then has revealed an innate genius for all the tried old lines of publicity, e.g.

keeping a monkey and a Chinese servant, getting taken to the police station at Toulon (1938) with three friends (respectively singer, artist and film actor) accused of illicit use of drugs; fined £5. The drug was opium, on which Cocteau later wrote a book. Six Syrians were arrested at the same time; this appears to have had no connection with French culture.

In 1923, after the death of his great friend, Raymond Radiguet, Cocteau went for long walks with Maritain, the distinguished Catholic philosopher. But the walks did not lead him into the Church.

## LAST RESERVE

Sokolova had no money. Diaghilev opened an old leather portmanteau and tipped out of it a heap of coins of every European country. He handed over all the silver. It was his last reserve. It was enough to pay the surgeon.

That was Diaghilev at his best. And his worst?

He was so madly jealous of Massine, the dancer who was his favourite pupil, that he hired three pairs of detectives to follow Massine and two girls.

Massine was supposed to be in love with one of them. But which?

"When he thought he had discovered the guilty one he had her fetched at night, doped,

to what I cannot say."

Poetry is indispensable, but

always knew how far he could go too far, said:

"Poetry is indispensable, but

it tells the story of two rich juvenile delinquents, Elizabeth and Paul, who dwell together to keep a grip on the truck.

All the greater pity, then, that

The Enormous Shadow, after

getting off to a good start, falls

into a rut.

He knows the strains of a

newspaper office, the hidden

rivalries, little dignities,

smirking intrigues.

He knows that journalists in

fiction, as in life, should be dis-

tinguished by something more

than bad manners, a partiality

for spirits and a waistcoat

marked by cigarette-droppings.

He can even draw an editor who

might conceivably know a lead

story when he saw one.

He is a poet who writes about

drugs and fantasies. When Paul

wishes to impress a school

chum, he invents a project for

mass murder by means of a

poisoned gum, affixed to post-

age stamps.

The feverish relations between

the two young people end when

Paul dies and Cocteau shoots

himself. A climax with the

crazy logic of nightmares ends a

tale that has the eerie fascina-

tion of something which cannot

quite be understood.

DIAGHILEV

with a moustache,

by

COCTEAU



Jean Cocteau  
1954



Available everywhere \$1.50 per bottle

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ONE & TWO OUNCE AIRTIGHT TINS



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from any leading  
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**MOUSON**

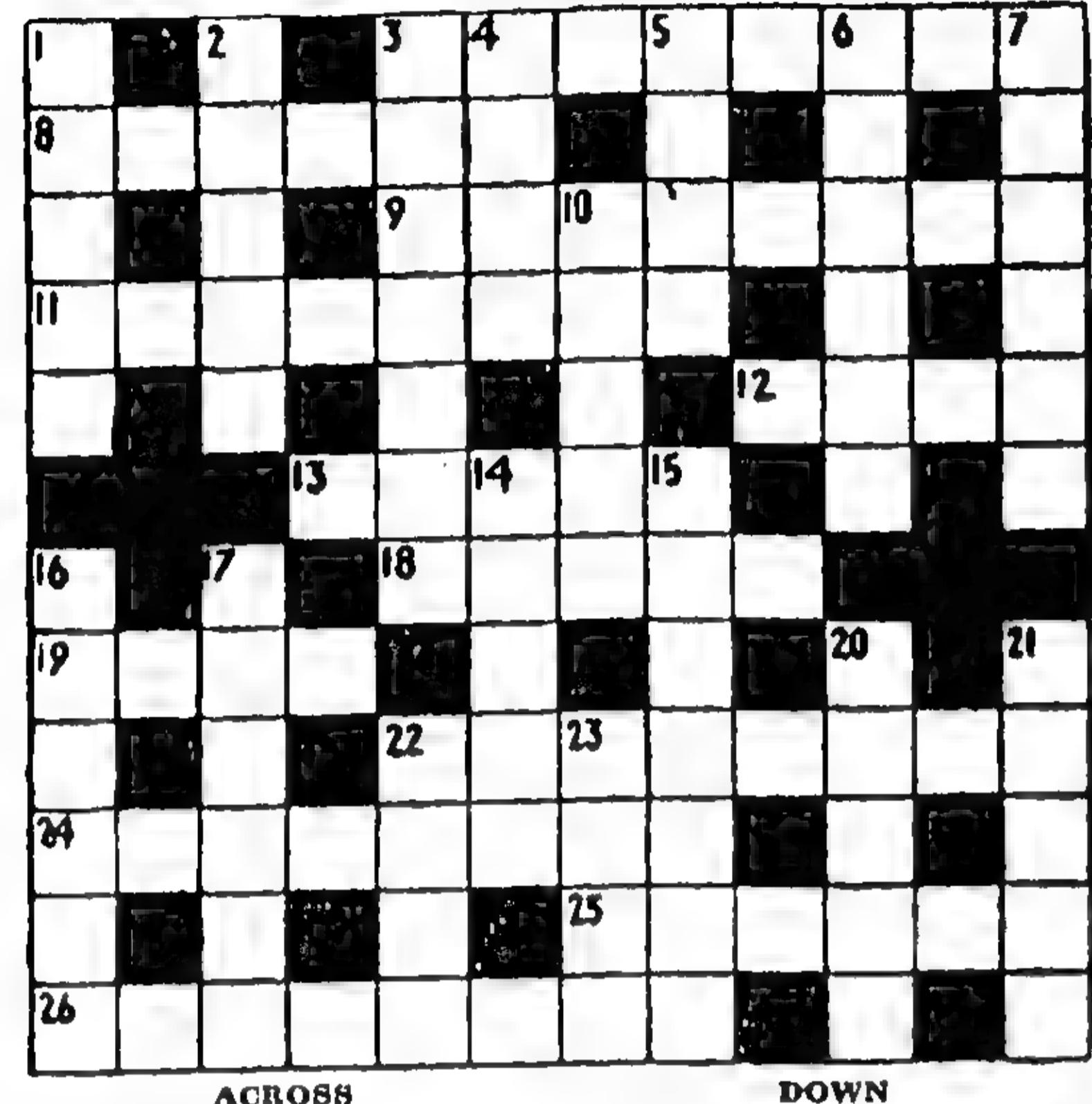
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**WONDERFUL GIFTS**

for both Men & Women!



## A British Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

3 Exhibits (8). 8 Frightened (6). 9 Hunted for (8). 11 Warlike (8). 12 Accurate (4). 13 Deduce (5). 16 Weeds (5). 19 Dregs (4). 22 Feign illness (8). 23 Solace (8). 25 Morose (8). 26 Scatter (8). **YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**—Across: 3 Particle, 7 Opera, 8 Portion, 9 Tarn, 10 Ticker, 13 Ideal, 15 Tint, 17 Tint, 18 Tint, 19 Tint, 20 Tinted, 21 Tinting, 22 Sanctity, 23 Sanctity, 24 Sanctity, 25 Sanctity, 26 Sanctity, 27 Sanctity, 28 Sanctity, 29 Sanctity, 30 Sanctity, 31 Sanctity, 32 Sanctity, 33 Sanctity, 34 Sanctity, 35 Sanctity, 36 Sanctity, 37 Sanctity, 38 Sanctity, 39 Sanctity, 40 Sanctity, 41 Sanctity, 42 Sanctity, 43 Sanctity, 44 Sanctity, 45 Sanctity, 46 Sanctity, 47 Sanctity, 48 Sanctity, 49 Sanctity, 50 Sanctity, 51 Sanctity, 52 Sanctity, 53 Sanctity, 54 Sanctity, 55 Sanctity, 56 Sanctity, 57 Sanctity, 58 Sanctity, 59 Sanctity, 60 Sanctity, 61 Sanctity, 62 Sanctity, 63 Sanctity, 64 Sanctity, 65 Sanctity, 66 Sanctity, 67 Sanctity, 68 Sanctity, 69 Sanctity, 70 Sanctity, 71 Sanctity, 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## BRITISH SOCCER ACCEPTS . . .

## FAIR SHOULDER CHARGE OF GOALKEEPER AS A FEATURE OF THE GAME

By I. M. MacTAVISH

From Indonesia to Ibrox and from Sookunpoo to South America football folk the world over have suddenly become involved in a great argument about rough play in general and charging the goalkeeper in particular.

The salient points of the matter are that British football accepts the fair shoulder charge as a feature of the game, while other countries, particularly on the continent of Europe, have shown a distaste for the practice.

There are "pros" and "cons" for both points of view. One thing is absolutely definite, that is, that the British attitude is strictly in accordance with the laws of the game, and many knowledgeable folk feel that if the current efforts to ban charging of the goalkeeper are successful it will be the thin edge of a wedge that might eventually lead to a still wider prohibition of charging.

To appreciate the different attitudes between the soccer communities in the Home countries and on the continent it is necessary to look at the role of their respective goalkeepers . . . maybe not so much today as in the formative years before the last war.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

In Britain the goalkeeper was, and still is, essentially a unit in a team. He is expected to share the team's responsibilities in exactly the same way as the other players, and as far as the average British fan is concerned, dramatic theatricals on the part of the goalkeeper cut very little ice.

This does not mean that the British spectator does not appreciate a personality. He does. Men like Frank Swift, Sam Bartram, Jimmy Cowan and Ronnie Simpson, all as spectacular and acrobatic as any continental, have enjoyed great popularity, not because of an "act", but because they never predicated goalkeeping to absolute showmanship, and because they were always ready and willing to meet the strongest attack and the stoutest physical challenge, without a show of pseudo-dramatics more befitting a flouted prima donna than a footballer.

On the continent where soccer had a later birth things were, and still are, very different.

## SPORTS QUIZ

- Christian names please: Llewellyn; Pompey; Olson.
- Two brothers have held the same British boxing title since the war. Who are they and what was the title?
- With what sports do you associate Roy Salvadori, James J. Parker, John Surtees, Ronde Moore?
- Who won most gold medals in the men's track and field events at the Helsinki Olympics out of Jamaica, Luxembourg and Australia?
- Who is the odd batsman out: Len Hutton, Keith Miller, Peter May, Neil Harvey?
- By what names are Arnold Cream and Walker Smith better known? Both have recently held world boxing titles.
- Whom did Tony Trabert beat to win the Men's Singles Final at Wimbledon this year?
- What happened when Gentleman Jim met John L?
- Who was the last non-American to win the World heavyweight boxing title?
- Can a footballer be off-side from (a) a throw-in (b) a corner (c) a free kick?

(Answers See Page 23)

## Carlsberg Policy MEANS Carlsberg Quality!

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## Famous Sports Stars I Have Met

Jack Bloomfield  
By ARCHIE QUICK

So Jack Bloomfield is coming back to the West End. The immaculate figure of this big, handsome Jew was one of the sights of London in those pre-war days beyond recall. His hostility in Leicester Square was the meeting place of sportsmen in every walk of life—the crossroads where you met everyone who was anyone in boxing, football, cricket, golf, the stage, the Press.

Through the swinging glass doors would pass celebrities of the calibre of Patsy Hendren, Len Braund, Len Harvey, Alex James, Alex Jackson, Bomber Billy Wells. The names are legion and household words to everyone of them. And there to meet them was Jack, perfectly groomed, a red carnation well-kept dark curly hair, six foot and more of him. The former Champion was the Metropolis's counterpart of New York's Jack Dempsey.

Alas, the tavern received a direct hit during the London blitz with the loss of life of some of the staff. Now it is to be rebuilt and Jack goes back to his mine host.

## GENERAL OPINION

It is the general opinion that Bloomfield would have had a good chance of winning the World's Heavyweight Championship but for an unfortunate accident. After knocking out Billy Wells he picked up the tall Bomber and carried him to his corner. Bloomfield sustained serious internal injury as a result and never fought again. It was a tragedy for British boxing as much as it was personally to Jack.

## WEEK-END GAMES

There is a most interesting schedule of games this week-end and the most demanding soccer fans should find something to interest them both today and tomorrow.

The programme is as follows:—

Today: RAF v. Sing Tao at Club Stadium; Navy v. Club at Causeway Bay; Army v. Police at Boundary Street.

Tomorrow: Kwong Wah v. CAA at Caroline Hill; Eastern v. South China at Hongkong Stadium.

All games will start at 3.30 p.m.

It will be noted that the Army-Police game, which was originally due to be played at the Club Stadium tomorrow, will go on at Boundary Street this afternoon.

The Island crowd this afternoon will be at the Club to watch the Tigers tackle the Royal Air Force, and with the light blues in their current good form a close game should be seen. Their earlier meeting ended in a hard fought draw and once again there may be very little between them at the finish, with Sing Tao starting narrow favourites.

## VITAL BREAKS

Tomorrow the New Government Stadium will hold another big crowd for the top-of-the-table clash between Eastern and South China. The fans are very much divided on the outcome of this game but the general feeling seems to be that Eastern—apart from being a competent enough side—are getting the vital breaks that makes them a hard side to beat.

South China have had a disappointing season so far but they are still potentially a grand side and with forwards like Ho Cheung-yau, Yu Cheuk-yin and Mok Chun-wah they can never be underestimated. It looks like a close affair. Eastern will start favourites but an early goal to South China could well see two valuable points crossing the road to Caroline Hill.

In the other week-end games CAA should edge out Kwong Wah; Navy should not lose to the Club; and the Army will do well to share the dues at Boundary Street against their old rivals, the Police.

## Sports Diary

## TODAY

## Cricket

RAF Mainland v. RAF Island (Kai Tak) 3 p.m.; DBS v. Queens 3.30 p.m.; RAF v. University "B" (Kowloon) 4 p.m.; Army "N" v. University "A" v. Police.

## Rugby

RAF Mainland v. RAF Island (Kai Tak) 3 p.m.; DBS v. Queens 3.30 p.m.; RAF v. University "B" (Kowloon) 4 p.m.; RAF v. University "A" v. Police.

## Hockey

Ladies' League: KGV "B" v. Dorians "B" (B.S.) 2.15 p.m.; Gremlins King v. Escolio (B.S.) 4 p.m.; Victoria v. Services 4 p.m.; RAF v. Kowloon 4 p.m.

Friendly match: Combined Services v. Combined Civilians (King's Park) 4 p.m.

## Tennis

Annual Interport: Hongkong v. Macao at CRC courts at 2.30 p.m.

## Badminton

Inter-School matches at DBS.

## Racing

Third Race Meeting. (Second Day) at Happy Valley at 2 p.m.

## LEARN YOUR CRICKET

## Get Down To Fielding

ALL close-in fielders should watch the bat except first slip and leg slip, who should watch the ball. For sighting the ball quickly and for quick movement in any direction the close-in fielder's "position of readiness" should be as follows:

(1) Legs comfortably apart, with weight evenly distributed between the balls of both feet.

(2) Both knees and hips well bent; it is always easier to rise than to stoop.

(3) Hands relaxed in front of and between the knees, with fingers pointing more or less down. The forearms should be free and not resting on the thighs.

(4) Head still and mind concentrated on each ball.

To sustain this concentration throughout an innings means a constant effort of will, but remember how often it is just when this concentration has failed that the vital chance comes.

More catches are missed by failure to get into the proper position for catching than by failure of the hands to close on the ball.

The catcher's aim should be to:

(1) Once he has sighted the ball, move as quickly as possible to get his head on to the line.

(2) Once there, keep balanced and still and really watch the ball.

(3) So far as possible, catch the ball level with his face.

[Taken from "Cricket-How to Play," produced for the M.C.C. by Educational Productions Ltd.]

## HE LEARNED THE LINCO

Two years ago an Italian walked into Hereford United's offices and asked for a game. He was told to go away and learn the language as he could speak no English. Filippo Aiello was back again recently having learned his English quickly because he wanted to play senior football. He is getting a trial. While studying he has been averaging two goals a week for a junior club. He is a baker and used to play Soccer in his native Salerno.

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We have specially prepared baskets of six or eight bottles of assorted wines and spirits to suit different tastes. Also available as gifts, are Christmas wrapped boxes of two, three and four bottles. Orders will be accepted for boxes or baskets made up as required by the customer.

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PHONE: 20075.



# AND NOW THE POOLS INVADE NEW ZEALAND

By J. C. GRAHAM

Auckland.  
Football pools, long familiar to people in a number of other countries, have just been introduced to New Zealanders as a new form of gambling with the chance of winning huge sums as the magnet.

During the past few weeks, thousands of New Zealanders have received circulars from Pools promoters urging them to join in and win a fortune. Airmail envelopes and forms are enclosed for the matches a fortnight ahead, to enable New Zealanders to submit their entries in time.

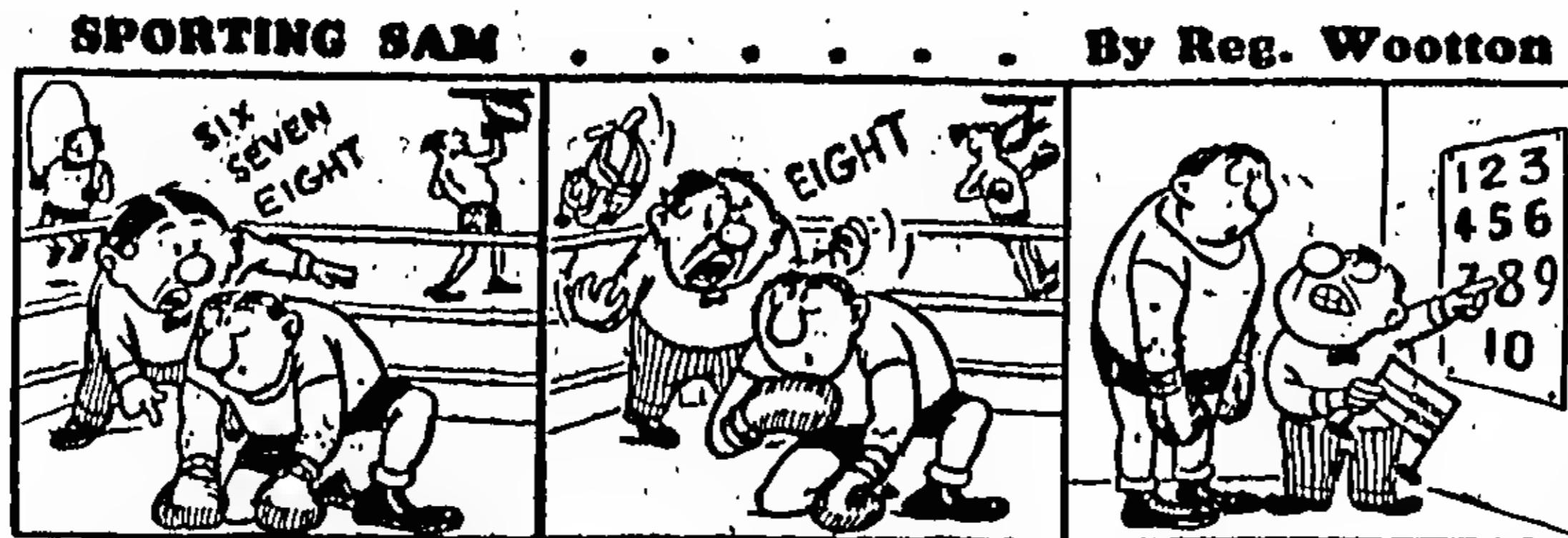
With the forms come glowing accounts of how to win £75,000. "We are extending our service to New Zealand following requests from many residents," say the promoters.

"Nothing is too much trouble where overseas clients are concerned. Special arrangements have been made for coupons to be sent regularly by first class air mail, well in advance of matches."

#### MONEY ORDER

Guarantees are given to pay all winnings without any need for a claim, and means are described by which stakes can be sent by money order, cash or cheque, either with the entries or in advance.

Although the New Zealander is only just at the next man to win £75,000, the Government is upset at this latest example of enterprise. So much so that the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr S. W. Smith, has ordered his department to make a full report on the legality of the venture. Meanwhile he comments: "If we are going to use sport for the purpose of gambling I think it is a poor lookout. I can see no sign of skill in the picture. If it depends on forecasting the results of matches between different football clubs of which most New Zealanders have heard nothing, it must be regarded as an outright gamble."



## OLD ARCH RIVALS—BRÁVES AND ST JOSEPH'S TO CLASH TOMORROW MORNING

By TIME OUT

Softball enthusiasts trooping out to the park this week-end will have more than their money's worth, as the long-awaited clash between the League-leading Braves and the mighty St Joseph's has finally been slated for decision at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

These old arch rivals have always been battling for the Senior "A" crown in the past years with the Saints coming off with the last two Championships.

This year, however, the tide is changed as the Braves lead the League with no losses while their on-equality rivals have two chalked up against them. Another loss tomorrow will mean "farewell" to 1955-60 pennant hopes.

Overshadowed by the key match in the morning, the afternoon fixture is between Eddie Marques' Warriors and the Universe Athletics, in the only other Senior "A" Division to be scheduled, should provide a contest in both these teams are known as unpredictable, eaching up a brilliant brand of ball one week and immediately crumbling to pieces in the next.

#### TOP BILLING

The Senior "B" sector of the side come up with a full programme this week as all four teams are featured in tomorrow's afternoon card. Taking top billing will be the up-and-coming Hurricanes nine, who improved considerably since the start of the season bettering the Comets and Delawares in their steady climb up the pennant ladder.

In tomorrow's scuffle, they cross bats with the second-placed Comets for the third time this year. The other game should see young Charlie Remedios' Delawares having a "field day" at the expense of the Warriors.

The game worth watching in the Ladies' Division is the Capunda-Colleen duel at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow as the young lasses from these squads are a keen bunch and can be counted on to put up a good show from start to finish. While this match is going on at the "A" diamond, the rookie Tai Tung girls, still itching for their first victory, will be having an embarrassing time in the far off ground as their rivals tomorrow are none other than the League-leading Wabobs and once again a lopsided score will be in the offing.

The Junior circuit as usual will dominate this afternoon's card with the spotlight falling sharply on the yet unbeaten PI Dodgers when they take on the hard-fighting Overseas contingent. Later on in the afternoon, the youthful Seminoles, under the able hands of Jindo Hussain, will be keeping up with Dodgers when they meet the lowly Tai Tung outfit.

#### FULL STRENGTH

Tomorrow's feature attraction between the League-leading Braves and the hard-hitting Saint Joseph's sure promises to be a battling tooth and nail, hammer and tongs' affair as both those teams will be out in full strength to renew their age-old feud that have lasted for the past six years. Fans can be assured that not a dull moment will be shown in this exciting tussle as thrill after thrill will keep them glued to their seats throughout the contest.

With no losses against them yet, Ed Carvalho's Braves will enter the field as favourites in this "Giant" battle. Considering the reputation of their opponents, mentor Carvalho of the Braves will probably start his strongest nine, with the main load resting on the steady hurling arm of fastballer Vic Pedroso on the slab.

Riffler Reggie Mattox will be calling the plays behind the

### They Gave Him The "Gate"

Albert Warburton hung up his football boots last season after long service in the South East Lancashire League with Bury St John's. He became a committee-man and studied to become an FA coach. Recently St John's Reserves were a man short, Albert turned out and badly injured the ligaments of one knee. In appreciation the club gave him the whole of the "gate" money.

#### Impossible situation



## About Time We Had A Labour Exchange For Footballers

Says DON REVIE

I think it is about time we had a Labour Exchange for Footballers on the transfer list. This may seem a revolutionary step, and yet if we are to stop these long drawn out tedious transfer stories, it seems the only answer.

The football public is, I am sure, tired of reading that Trevor Ford of Cardiff City is for transfer; that Bill Holden of Burnley is on the list; and that Don Revie of Manchester City is also available at the right offer.

They prove that you don't have to be big to play Soccer; and this rapid interchanging of the Burnley forward line—so typical of the continental brand of Soccer—is paying dividends.

Amazing how Burnley always seem to be a club which goes in for unbeaten runs. They did it when the great Bob Kelly, famous inside-forward of the 1920's played with them. They did it again in 1947 when they won promotion and reached the Final of the Cup.

Their centre-half in the great run in 1947 was none other than Alan Brown, their present manager.

Another club achieving great deeds in the First Division is Charlton Athletic. Amazing that this London club, always so consistent, never hits the headlines like Arsenal, Chelsea or Spurs.

Charlton, like Burnley, are a fast moving side with superb team spirit. Even at this stage of the season, I rather fancy both will be challenging for League or Cup by the time next May comes round.

Best story I've heard for a long time was about the goal "pouch" always noted for the way he grabs goals without doing the heavy monkey work in midfield. Shown a photograph of this team, the wide boy, not noticing himself in the opposing goalmouth, wistfully asked: "Where am I? Must have been off my game grafting in midfield!"

(COPYRIGHT)

## THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB THIRD RACE MEETING

Saturday, 10th & Saturday, 17th December, 1955.

(To be held under the Rules of the Hong Kong Jockey Club)

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF 16 RACES

The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the First Race run at 2.00 p.m. on both days.

The Secretary's Office at Alexandra Hot will close at 11.45 a.m. on both days.

#### MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

NO PERSON WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED.

All persons MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the meeting.

Admission Badges at \$10.00 each per day are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him.

Tickets will be obtainable at the Club House if ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 72811).

NO CHILDREN will be admitted to the Club's premises during the Meeting. For this purpose a Child is a person under the age of seventeen years. Western Standard.

#### PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission will be \$3.00 each per day payable at the Gate.

Any person leaving the Enclosure will be required to pay the requisite fee of \$3.00 in order to gain re-admission.

MEALS and REFRESHMENTS will be obtainable in the RESTAURANT.

#### SERVANTS

Servants must remain in their employer's boxes except for passing through on their duties. They may on no account use the Betting Booths in the Members' Enclosure.

#### CASH SWEEPS

Through Cash Sweep Tickets at \$10.00 each for the second day may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Office at Queen's Building, (Chater Road), and 6, D'Aguilar Street during normal office hours and until 11.00 a.m. on the day of the Race Meeting.

Particular numbers within the series 1 to 4,000 may be reserved for all race meetings as Through Tickets. Such tickets will be issued consecutively only and the right is reserved by the Stewards to cancel any reservation for Through Tickets for a particular Meeting if it is found that sales may not reach the number reserved in the series 1 to 4,000.

In the case of two-day Race Meetings, Through Tickets may be purchased for each day of the Meeting provided that the second day is on a date not less than five days after the first day. In all other cases Through Tickets will only be sold for the whole Meeting.

Tickets reserved and available but not paid for by 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 9th December, will be sold and the reservation cancelled for future Meetings.

Tickets over 4,000 will also be issued consecutively but particular numbers cannot be reserved as Through Tickets.

The reservation of any particular number does not confer on the registered holder any rights whatsoever unless the ticket bearing the appropriate number is issued to and can be produced by the holder.

The Stewards reserve the right to refuse any subscription and the right to remove any name from subscription lists without stating reasons for their action.

Cash Sweep Tickets on the last race of the Meeting at \$2.00 each may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Office at Queen's Building (Chater Road), 6, D'Aguilar Street and 382, Nathan Road during normal office hours and until 11.00 a.m. on both days of the Meeting.

#### SPECIAL CASH SWEEP

Tickets for the Special Cash Sweep on the Pearce Memorial Cup scheduled to be run on 4th February 1956, at \$2.00 each, may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Office.

#### TOTALISATOR

Betters are advised not to destroy or throw away their tickets until after the "all clear" signal has been exhibited.

ALL WINNING TICKETS AND TICKETS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT AT THE RACE COURSE ON THE DAY TO WHICH THEY REFER, NOT LATER THAN ONE HOUR AFTER THE TIME FOR WHICH THE LAST RACE OF THE DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE RUN.

PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE MADE ON TORN OR DESTROYED TICKETS.

Bookmakers, Tie-Tac men etc. will not be permitted to operate within the premises of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

#### BY ORDER OF THE STEWARDS

A. E. ARNOLD, Secretary.





Hearty greetings

to all babies and  
special good wishes  
to those in hospital.

A Healthier, Happier  
Christmas and  
New Year on  
Cow & Gate



**COW & GATE MILK FOOD**  
The FOOD of ROYAL BABIES

Sole Agents:  
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HONGKONG



Now take each guest in turn, blindfold him, turn him around two times, point him toward the picture and put a moistened Santa Claus seal in his hand.

The idea is to have each guest walk over to the picture and paste his Santa Claus seal on the chimney. The one coming nearest to the centre mark wins the game.

When the game is finished you will find that you have Santas everywhere, climbing in the windows and sliding down the roof! Everyone will get lots of laughs.

Here are some more:

PLACE A "mail box" (empty shoe box is fine) on the floor. Place a broom or yardstick about six feet away. Players take turns "mailing" six old greeting cards from behind the line.

Cards landing in the box are "mailed" and count one point. The player mailing the most cards wins the game.



CHOOSE a familiar Christmas carol for this group game. Silent Night is a good choice.

Players sit or stand in a circle. One player starts by saying "silent." Player No. 2 says "night," player No. 3 "holy," and player No. 4 "night" and so on around the circle, with each player giving the next word to the verse.

**TAIKOO**  
BARBADOS  
**SUGAR**  
IN ALL SHOPS & STORES  
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Refined since 1864

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# Boys' And Girls' Christmas Pages

## CAN YOU PICK P·E·A·R·L·S FROM A TREE?

"MY pearls!" The famous guests at the Christmas party gathered round a woman clasping at her neck.

"My pearls—where are they?"

"Elementary," said another guest. (You know who.) "Someone has hidden them as a practical joke."

He was right. The joker had hidden the pearls somewhere on the Christmas tree.

Where? That's for you to find out. But here is a tip: FIRST give each of the ten guests named on the invitation cards (right) his or her gift from the Christmas tree (you'll see that each gift has some special link with a guest).



When each guest has a gift—in the one gift left over, where the pearls are hidden

CHRISTMAS  
PUZZLE BY  
JOHN BODIE



### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11					12		
13					14	15	16
17						18	
19						20	21
22						23	
24						25	
26						27	
28						29	

### ACROSS

- 1 Joyous holiday
- 9 Tumult
- 10 Lease
- 11 Still
- 12 Consumed
- 13 Continued stories
- 17 Sea eagle
- 18 Hush
- 22 Dance step
- 23 Feminine name
- 25 Lubricants
- 27 Otherwise
- 28 Gift for winter use

### DOWN

- 1 Weep
- 2 Hastings
- 3 Fixed course
- 4 That thing
- 5 Transpose (ab.)
- 6 Repast
- 7 Social insects
- 8 Female saint (ab.)
- 14 Unit of reluctance
- 15 Anger
- 16 Girl's name
- 18 Levantine ketch
- 19 Small island
- 20 Young horse
- 21 Essential being
- 22 Hawaiian food
- 24 Roman bronze
- 26 Steamship (ab.)
- 27 Babylonian deity

### SPORTS SCRAMBLEGRAM

Rearrange the letters in each of the following strange lines to form the names of three winter sports:

SOD GLIB BEND  
LOBO FLAT  
SIGH LINE GRID

## CHRISTMAS PUZZLES

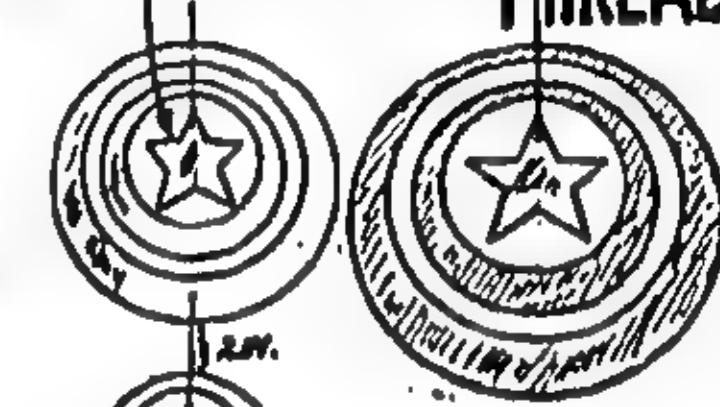
### WINTRY REBUS

Something nice to give and nice to receive forms the centre of this diamond, a PRESENT. The second word is "a constellation"; third "to anoint"; fifth "vigilant"; and sixth an abbreviation for "entomology."

P  
R  
E  
N  
T



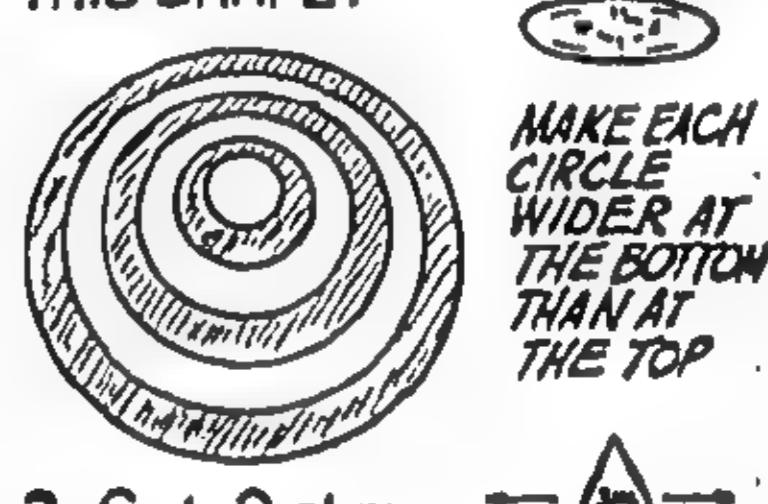
4. String the stars and the rings together like this with a NEEDLE and BLACK THREAD.



### CHRISTMAS MOBILE

1. Cut off the rim of a 9 inch ALUMINUM PLATE... then cut off the edge.

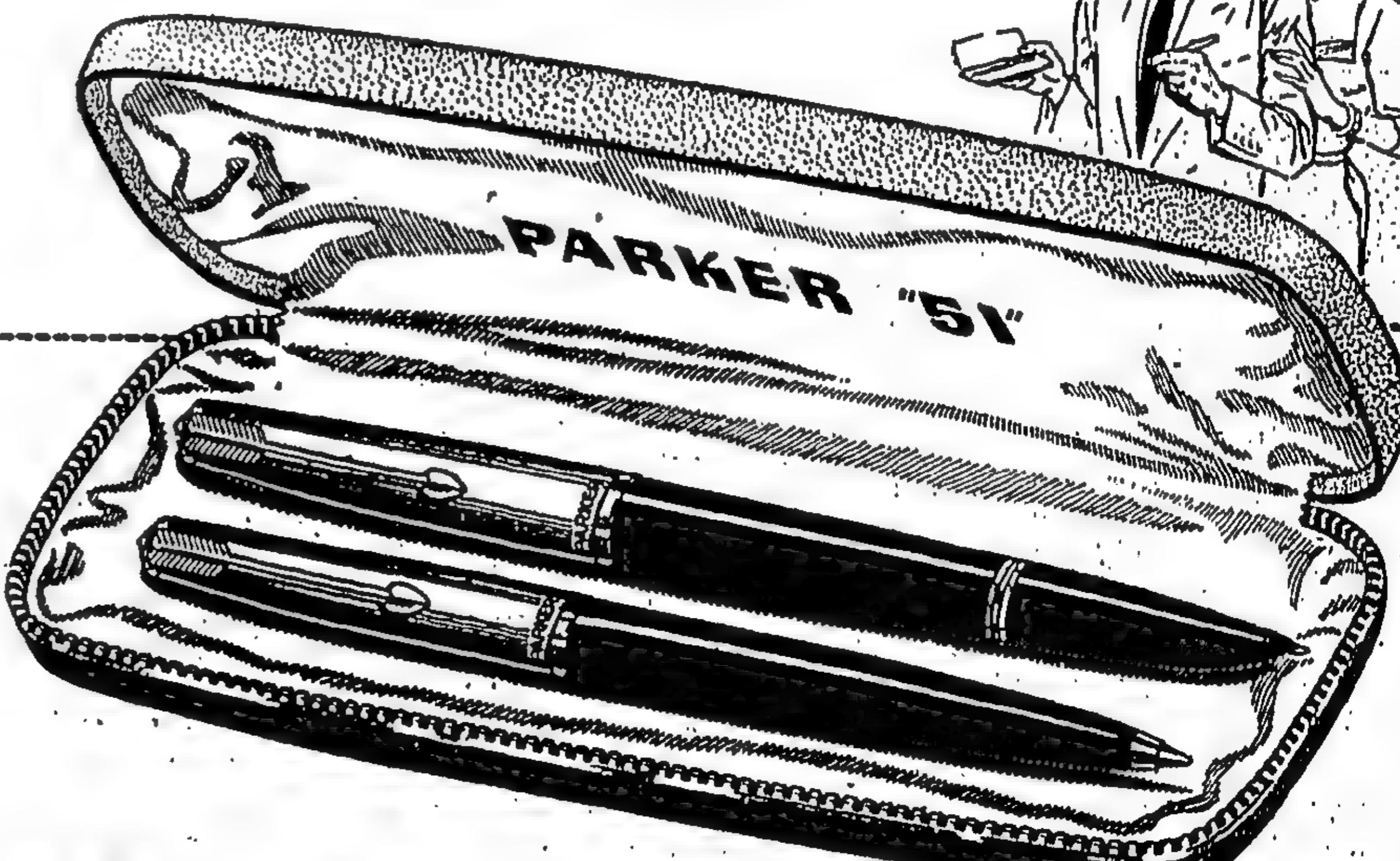
2. CUT 5 RINGS FROM THE BOTTOM IN THIS SHAPE.



3. Cut 9 stars from the bottom of another plate. MAKE THEM FROM 3 INCHES TO 6 INCH ACROSS.

4. Tie the stars and rings to the rim so it will balance. Hang it where it will turn in the air currents.

## NEWEST IDEA IN WRITING!



### NEW

## Parker "Smart Set"

### COMBINES

### "51" PEN AND

### "51" BALLPOINT

• A unique and wonderful gift! Here, for the first time, the two leading writing instruments of their kind are brought together to form the one truly modern writing combination.

With this new Parker "Smart Set" you give the writing equipment everyone needs. For personal letters, the Parker "51" Pen! Its Electro-Polished point is the smoothest ever made; its two-finger filling is a marvel of simplicity!

For quick notes and figuring, there's the Parker "51" ballpoint! It writes nearly 400,000 words with a single cartridge, offers a choice of four point sizes from broad to extra fine! Choose the new Parker "Smart Set" for your gift giving!

PRICES: ROLLED GOLD CAP PEN: HK\$30. BALLPOINT: HK\$20. SET: HK\$50.

OTHER BALLPOINTS FROM HK\$10 UP. BALLPOINT CARTRIDGE HK\$1.

SOLE AGENTS: SHIRO (CHINA) LIMITED, 8, Raffles Building, Des Voeux Road.

OPEN REPAIR SERVICE: 1, NORTH AND 10, ALEXANDRA ROAD.

## A STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

## The White Golliwog

By WINIFRED NORLING



"WHAT is that noise?" asked Rocker the handsome rocking-horse, who had only just come to Mrs Mason's toy shop.

"It's only Golly crying," the French doll told him.

"Who's Golly, and why is he crying, Fifiette?"

"Because he fell into a pail of temper which some boy put down on his way upstairs. When he came back and found Golly had fallen in, he tossed him up on the top shelf out of sight. Poor Golly's afraid he will be left there and forgotten, and he was hoping to be chosen as a Christmas present for some child. I can't think why. I shall be quite happy to stay here doing nothing but decorate the window."

"Not much fear of your staying here," put in Grey Elephant slowly. "You know all the children are mad to have you. None of us will get a look-in till you are gone."

"So you want me to go, do you?" laughed Fifiette. "I'm afraid I'm too expensive for most little girls, but one day someone will come in a big car and take me away."

"Boo-hoo!" sobbed a weak little voice from far above them. "Boo-hoo-hoo!"

"Poor Golly!" sighed Teddy Bear. "Can't we help him? Perhaps if we brushed him the white would come off."

"Of course it won't, silly," cried Bones the white terrier. "Can't think why his mists being white. I don't."

"You wouldn't like to be black, Bones, would you?" put in Sailor Boy. "Black golliwogs don't like being white any more than white dogs want to be black."

"True, true," agreed the rocking-horse. "Couldn't we drop Golly into something black and make him his right colour again?"

"How? What?" roared Leo the Lion.

"I think Golly looks very nice white," murmured the last of the Christmas Fairies gently. "He's such a dear. Any child would love him, white or black."

"I—I can't get down. It's too far to jump," cried Golly.

"Can't you jump on to my back?" asked Rocker. "I'm strong, and I should break you fall."

"It's too far even to your back," sobbed Golly.

"You've a long neck, Raff. Can't you get him down?" asked Grey Elephant.

The giraffe held up his neck towards the shelf. But Golly was still far above his head.

"I know," cried the Fairy, clapping her hands. "Bounce must fetch him. You're the biggest ball in the shop, Bounce, so bounce your very hardest. Golly can jump on to you when you're as high as his shelf, and you can come down together."

Bounce began to bounce, but soon it was growing light, and he had not bounced nearly high enough to reach Golly.

"Never mind, Golly," said the gentle Fairy. "We'll try again tonight."

That day many of the toys were sold. The Fairy was chosen quite early in the morning, and both Plush and Bones left Mrs Mason's shop during the afternoon. Just before the shop was shut, a young man came hurrying in. He bought Leo the Lion and Rocker the rocking-horse. He took Leo with him, but Rocker was to be sent the next morning.

When all was dark and quiet, the toys thought of poor lonely Golly, and they urged Bounce to try harder than ever to reach him.

"I've been thinking," said Rocker slowly. "Why don't you bounce from the counter instead of from the floor. Bounce? You'd have a good start and should easily reach the shelf!"

All the toys thought this a good idea, and when Mr and Mrs Brick and all their big family had made a stairway for him, Bounce climbed up on to the counter and began to bounce.

"Are you ready, Golly?" cried Sailor Boy. "Bounce nearly did it at that time."

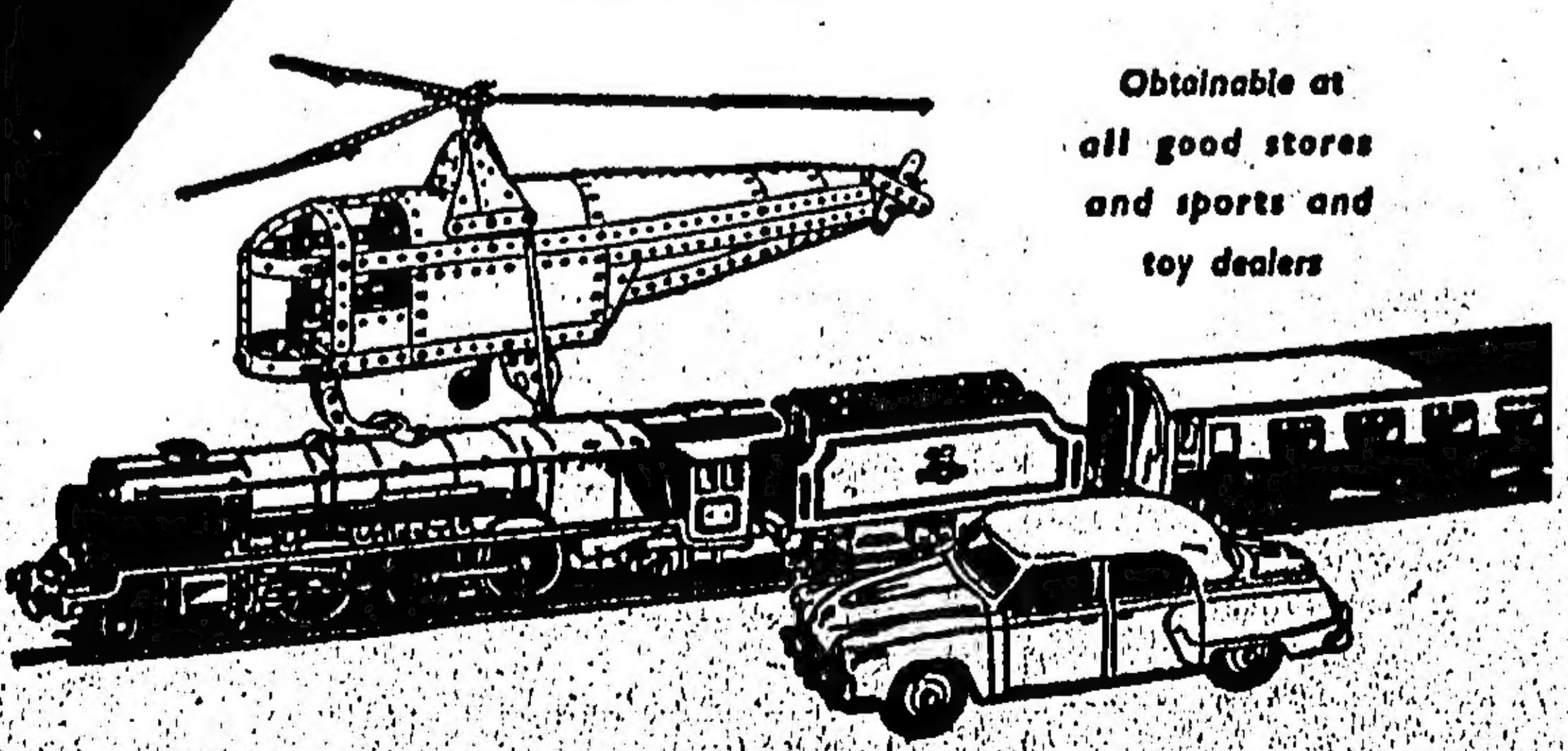
Golly nodded. He was too much excited to speak, but his bright eyes followed Bounce as he rose and fell. Then he saw his chance and took it. A moment later a hot Bounce and a strange white Golly reached the counter together.



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TOYS OF  
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- MECCANO. The Greatest of all constructional toys—unrivalled for fun and interest.
- HORNBY-DUBLO ELECTRIC TRAINS. The perfect scale-model railway system—a complete railway on a table-top.
- HORNBY CLOCKWORK TRAINS. The sturdiest clockwork railway for younger boys.
- DINKY TOYS. Sturdy realistic miniatures of cars, lorries, tractors, planes, etc. All boys love to collect them.

Obtainable at  
all good stores  
and sports and  
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## SANTA CLAUS PHONES

—Ho Wants Many Pots Ready For Christmas Gifts—

By MAX TRELL

JUST as Knarf, the shadow-boy with the turned-about name, entered the Playroom, the telephone began ringing. It wasn't a regular telephone. It was a telephone that belonged to Mr Punch and Judy.

Knarf saw Mr Punch going behind the bookcase to answer it.

## Mysterious Conversation

"Just pardon me a moment," Mr Punch said to Knarf. "I'll see who it is."

Then Knarf heard Mr Punch speaking to someone over the phone.

"Oh, hello there, S.C.," Knarf heard Mr Punch say. "How things going with you? Pretty busy eh? Well, you always ARE pretty busy this time of the year. Why, yes." Mr Punch said after a pause during which he listened to the other party speaking. "I'll be glad to get them for you, S.C. I'll get right on it. Good-bye."

With that Mr Punch hung up. He turned to Knarf, who was waiting for him in the chair by the window.

With that Mr Punch hung up.

He turned to Knarf, who was waiting for him in the chair by the window.

"Oh," said Knarf in surprise.



Mr Punch takes a timely phone order from St. Nicholas.

Mr Punch looked at Knarf's face and smiled.

"I suppose you'd like to know who S.C. is, wouldn't you?"

"Yes," said Knarf. "He hadn't wanted to ask. He didn't think it was polite."

"I don't mind telling you,"

said Mr Punch, "that S.C. is Santa Claus: S for Santa and C for Claus."

"Oh," said Knarf in surprise.

"And now," said Mr Punch, still smiling, "I suppose you'd like to know what he asked me to get for him."

"I would like to know," said Knarf. "He couldn't think of anything that Santa Claus would want from anyone else."

"I'll tell you that too," said Mr Punch. "He wants a million puppies, a million kittens, half a million hamsters, five million canaries and ten million tropical fish."

Knarf gasped.

"This is the reason he wants them," said Mr Punch. "Puppies and kittens and canaries and hamsters and tropical fish are presents that lots of children, millions and millions of them, would like to get for Christmas. But they aren't presents that Santa Claus can make in that big toy shop of his up near the North Pole. But he's got to have them, just the same."

"So he asked you?" said Knarf.

Mr Punch nodded. "I'm glad to do it for S.C. He doesn't need them right away, of course. There's still a week before Christmas comes around. But I'll start going around to the toy shops tomorrow morning and get them all ready."

"Aren't you going to send them up to Santa Claus?" Knarf wanted to know.

Mr Punch said, "I'm glad to help old S.C. any time I can," said Mr Punch.

Knarf could understand that all right. He knew that old S.C. helped everyone else. But what he couldn't understand was where Mr Punch was going to get a million puppies, a million kittens, half a million hamsters, five million canaries and ten million tropical fish.

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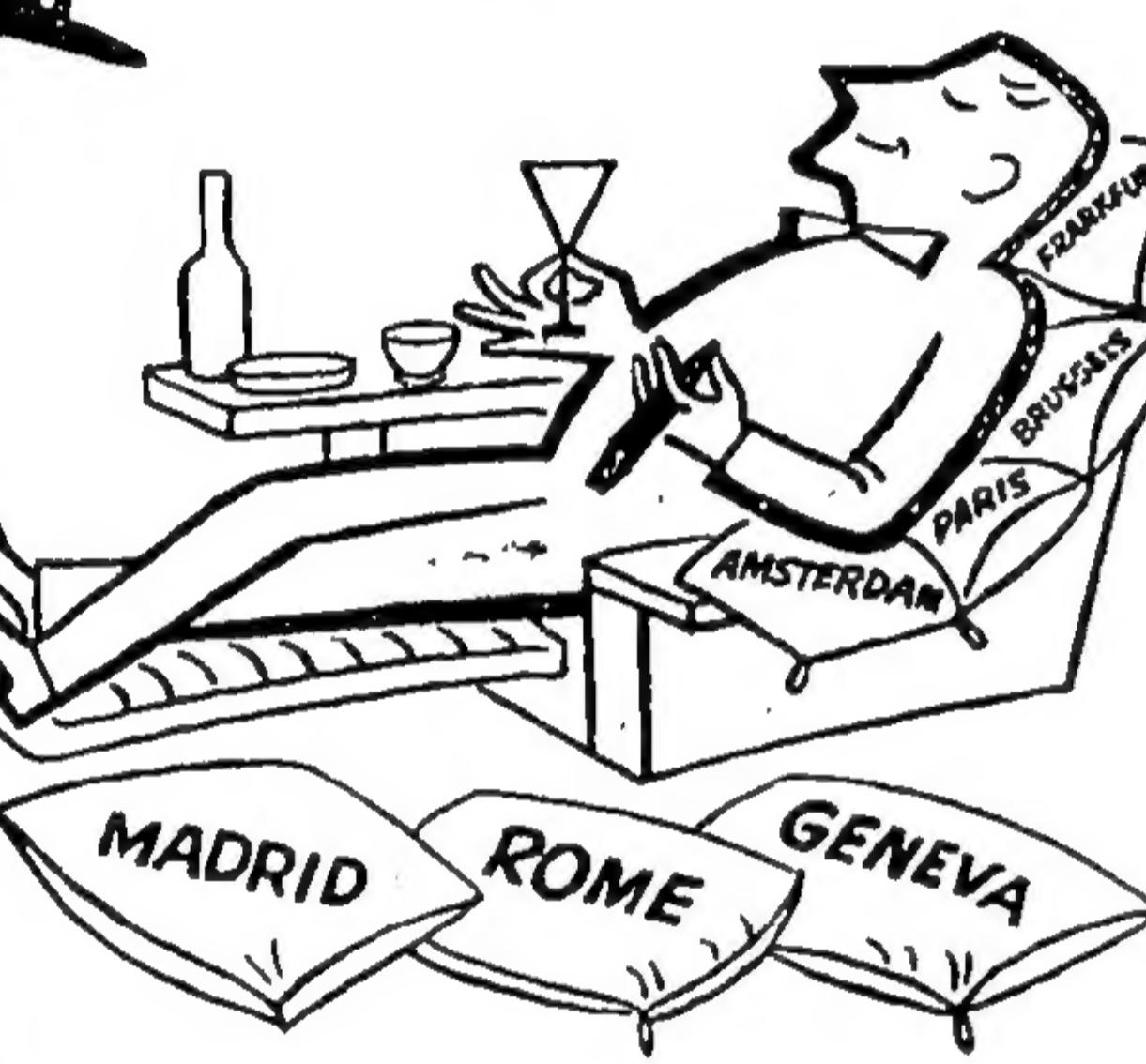
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## YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

BORN today, you are probably an emotional extremist and you do everything with such vim and gusto that no matter how original or conventional your ideas may be, they—and you—are eventually accepted as "gospel" by the world in general. You are a fighter and will exert force as well as will power to achieve your ultimate goal. You are an idealist and accept nothing unless it is first rate.

Fond of travel, it is likely that you will see many of the far places of this earth during your lifetime. You are able to make yourself quite at home anywhere. In selecting your partner for life, make sure that you choose someone who also has that talent for making any house or room a home! If both of you have "typical" feet, then the two of you can find happiness together anywhere. But if you wed someone who wants to "stay put," there is little use trying to find permanent happiness together. Make sure, before you make the final decision, for your loyalties would make it difficult, if not impossible, for you to make a change, once your decision has been made.

Fortunately for one of your tastes, you are a good money-maker. Since you enjoy only the best of everything, it is well that you will be able to afford it. But if there are times when money is a little scarce, just learn to budget a little better.

Among those born on this date are: Beethoven and Julian Edwards, composers; Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, actor; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet; Alexander Agassiz, naturalist; William Harkness, astronomer; William Floyd, statesman; James H. McGraw, publisher.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Rest is important if you have had a busy week. Relax tensions and store up energy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—Daydreaming is fine but you need to instrument your dreams to make them come true.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)—Reading and quiet relaxation at home bring you the rest you need to rebuild energies.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)—Don't make even a verbal commitment until you have gathered all the facts and analyzed them.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 18)—You may meet someone at luncheon or tea who will have an influence upon your future life.

TAURUS (Apr. 19-May 17)—If you are asked to volunteer for church work do it. You will find it interesting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)—Spiritual exercises—and then some rest! That will do you a world of good this week-end.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 22)—Your may find your answer to a problem in spiritual advice. Be quiet and contemplative.

CANCER (June 22-July 21)—If there is a special fund being raised in your neighbourhood, give all you can afford.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)—It is a good idea to go up about the shortage of keratin, and on dark nights, toe-nail poachers will prowl round the cages, eyeing the huge feet with considerable malice aforesighted.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 22)—Get off by yourself for some quiet thought. It will do you much good.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 22)—Even the makers of billiard balls only have to buy the tasks. Why cannot the curators of zoos collect the clippings at the annual nail-cutting and sell them to the scientists? Failing that, is there no down-at-heels maharajah who would oblige, at, say, 4s. 6d. a gross? Otherwise a howl will go up about the shortage of keratin, and on dark nights, toe-nail poachers will prowl round the cages, eyeing the huge feet with considerable malice aforesighted.

CANCER (June 22-July 21)—You may be able to benefit from a good sermon today. Act what you hear to heart and act on it!

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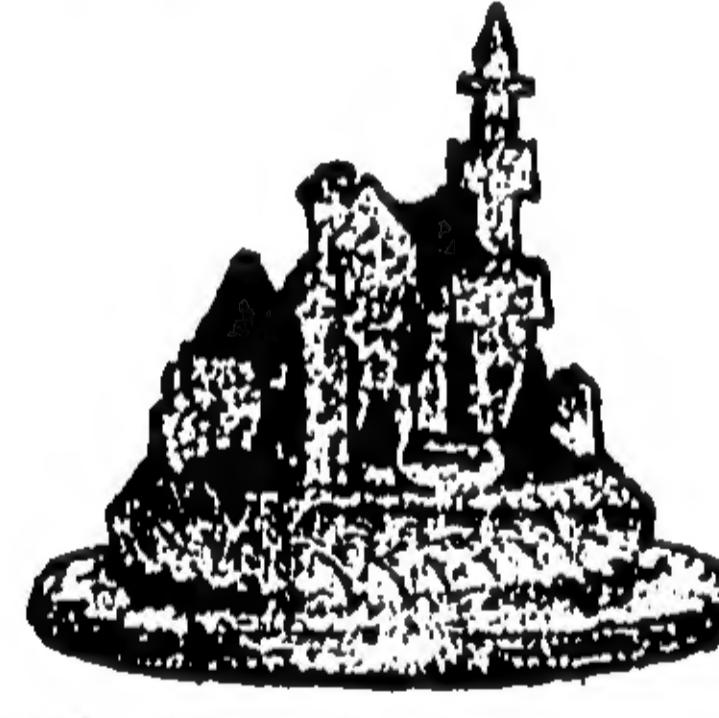
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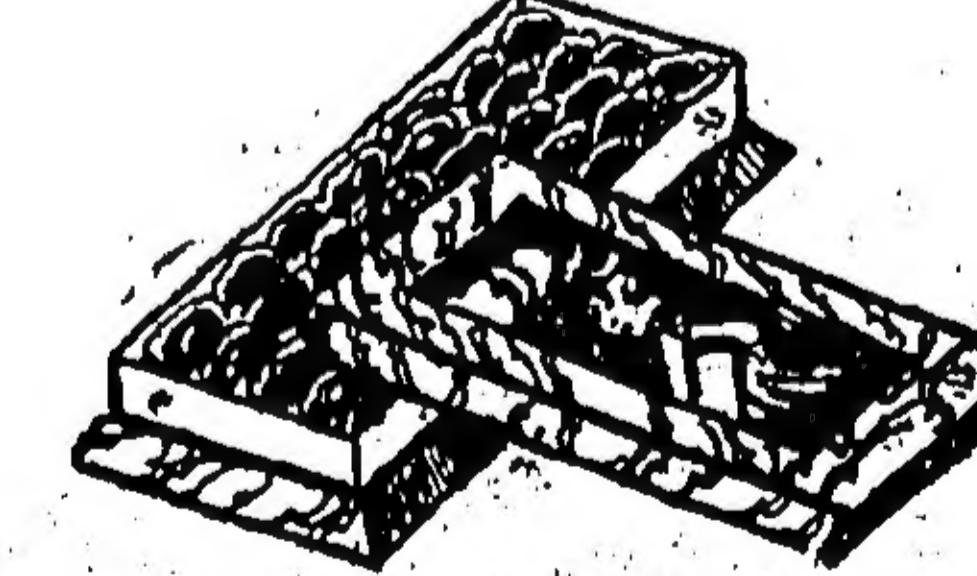
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## JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

### Robert Bearded

A BEARD, when most men wore one, was part of the mystery of a man, one of the veils not easily torn down, that stood between him and a public display of his more obvious weaknesses.

Nowadays, beards are for the most part dull, signifying no more than that their wearers are or have been in the Royal Navy, or in a certain sort of film, or suffering from a skin infection, or hoping to be noticed.

Robert's beard, compared to these, was outstanding. Each bristle somehow seemed to bear a kind of exasperated authority. It had not, clearly, been grown just for fun, or to comply with some dull expedient rule.

**LORRY CABS**  
ROBERT marched into the dock at Bow Street one morning recently and pleaded not guilty to loitering with intent to steal from the cabs of parked lorries.

While two policemen told Sir Laurence Dunne, the chief magistrate, of their watch upon Robert, and of what they had seen, he brooded in silence behind his beard.

"We saw him," one policeman said, "looking into the cabs of lorries parked near Covent Garden Market."

**NO STATEMENT**  
"WE noticed," said the second officer, "that there were coats and other articles in each of the lorry-cabs this man looked into."

The policemen stood down. Robert had declined to question either's story.

"Now it's your turn," Sir Laurence said to him.

"I have no statement to make whatsoever," said Robert, in the tone of a politician about whom reporters have discovered something interesting.

**EIGHT PREVIOUS**

"VERY well," said the chief magistrate. "I accept the evidence given by the police, and I find you guilty." He turned to the officer in charge of the case. "Anything known?" he asked.

"Eight previous convictions," the officer answered. "Only one is for dishonesty. The others are mostly for wandering abroad, and lodging in the open air."

"Tell me about him," said Sir Laurence.

"He's 43 years old, sir, and was born in the Isle of Wight."

**AFRICAN INTERLUDE**

"DOES he work?"

"Not since he came back from East Africa, in 1951."

There had been, until then, no mention of East Africa—not of what had taken Robert there, or how long he stayed; and

nothing was volunteered as to what had brought him back, or why the years since had been spent in idleness.

"Do you want to say anything more to me?" Sir Laurence asked Robert.

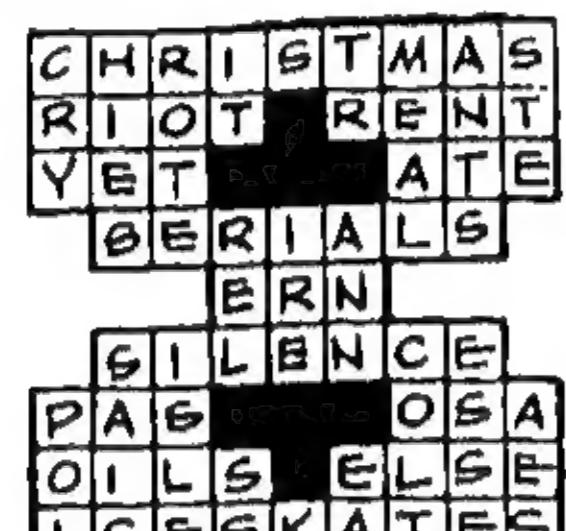
That would have been the moment for Robert to tell, with fire and passion, preferably, of the dreams of adventure that had taken him away, or perhaps of despair that had exiled him; dreams that had died under the stark sun, or despair that had drained him of the will to live like a man.

But Robert said nothing, just shook his head.

He was sent to prison for three months, and went away in silence, the challenging upward tilt of his chin exaggerated by his beard, his expression decently curtained by his beard from public view.

### BOYS AND GIRLS PAGE SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD:



SPORTS SCRAMBLEGRAM: Bob-deeding Football; Sleigh riding; DIAMOND:

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CHRISTMAS TOYS: (left to right) 1. Santa Claus; 2. Mrs. Santa Claus; 3. Santa Claus; 4. Mrs. Santa Claus; 5. Mrs. Santa Claus; 6. Mrs. Santa Claus; 7. Mrs. Santa Claus; 8. Mrs. Santa Claus; 9. Mrs. Santa Claus; 10. Mrs. Santa Claus; 11. Mrs. Santa Claus; 12. Mrs. Santa Claus.

### REPAIRED TANKS SENT TO EGYPT

Antwerp, Dec. 16. Directors of the port of Antwerp revealed today that 208 repaired British tanks have been shipped from Antwerp to Egypt since last July.

The tanks, which a spokesman said for the port authority, had been destined for the scrap heap in England, had been purchased by two Belgian firms and shipped to Egypt aboard two Egyptian ships.

The spokesman said that 100 tanks were shipped in July, 100 in September and eight in October. The spokesman would not comment on reports that a new shipment would leave for Egypt next Monday.

The spokesman described the shipments as a normal commercial operation.

The subject of arms shipments to Egypt was brought up last Tuesday in the Belgian House of Commons, and was treated in an article in a Brussels morning newspaper today. — France-Press.

### SOLUTIONS

1. The Duke of Edinburgh; 2. Sir Winston Churchill; 3. Pandit Nehru; 4. Sir George Richards; 5. Lady Muriel Shearer; 6. Miss Maureen Connolly; 8. Donald Duck.

JUST SOME IDEAS  
FOR HER PRESENT

### SILK SCARVES

GLOVES—For Dressy Wear or Driving  
SLIPPERS—Fleecy Lined & Towelling  
SUEDE JACKETS—Belted or Zipper

Muirrospun  
MADE IN SCOTLAND  
THE SUPER CASHMERE  
TWIN SETS—CARDIGANS  
AND BOLEROS.

MACKINTOSH'S

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# Pro-German Saar Parties Certain Of Victory

### SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



Saarbrucken, Dec. 16.

The campaign for Sunday's Saar elections will end at noon tomorrow with the three pro-German parties almost certain of a sweeping majority in the 50 seat Landtag (parliament).

Saar public reaction to the electioneering campaign has been generally apathetic, in spite of efforts to whip up the excitement by the use of martial music at meetings.

Nine parties are contesting the election. Most vigorous in their conduct of the campaign are the three pro-German parties, grouped into the Heimatbund coalition under former Nazi propaganda expert, Dr Heinrich Schneider.

Dr Schneider has exploited to the full the anti-French feeling

### Italy Suggested For Security Council Seat

United Nations, Dec. 16.

Italy has been suggested in the lobbies as a possible compromise candidate for the United Nations security council seat, which will be vacated by Turkey at the end of December, an informed source said today.

The General Assembly in four ballots today failed to break a deadlock between the Philippines and Yugoslavia, both of which failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority. Elections will be continued later today. — France-Press.

### S. Australia Shattered

Adelaide, Dec. 16.

Fast bowler Pat Crawford, a challenger for a place in the Australian team to tour England next year, took five wickets for 75 for New South Wales against South Australia in the Sheffield Shield match here today.

At the close on the first day New South Wales had scored 51 without loss in reply to South Australia's first innings total of 210.

Crawford, 22, played for East Lancashire in English league cricket last summer and appears to be a near certainty for the Australian side.

The spokesman described the shipments as a normal commercial operation.

The subject of arms shipments to Egypt was brought up last Tuesday in the Belgian House of Commons, and was treated in an article in a Brussels morning newspaper today. — France-Press.

### DARTWORDS SOLUTION

BANDURY C. Cross Crest Chest  
Chest T. Tenth Trenor  
Window Widow Mile Kite Kith Kin  
sin Wages Wales Walks Askew Skew  
Kew Gardens Garden Hail  
Cement Clement Saint Paint  
Tint Tint Trent Burton  
Button Mutton Chops Crops Docks  
Ducks Drakes Brakes Braces Cabers  
Capers Scrape ACQUAINTANCE

### American Capons

### American Bolling Hens

### Cut-Up Fryers

### New Zealand Hams

### Dairy Farm Mild Cured Ham

### Pineapple Ham

### The Dairy Farm

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